

# Sharon makes a splash!

**SEVENTEEN**-year-old Sharon Price swam into the record books by becoming the fastest and youngest person to swim from the Eddystone Lighthouse to Plymouth.

Sharon completed the 14-mile swim despite a shoal of jellyfish which stung her repeatedly.

But after arriving at the Leander Steps beneath the Hoe, Sharon said she was unaware of what was attacking her.

She said: "I touched a lot of things out there but I didn't know, or want to know, what they were. They only gave me a little sting."

**Fit Sharon finished the swim in six hours**

**56 minutes — smashing the 1977 previous best of 10½ hours.**

"I tried to do it in eight hours and went a little bit quicker. The conditions were perfect and I really enjoyed it."

Apart from the jellyfish, the only other hitch came within sight of the finish when the tide seemed to be against Sharon and she felt she was not making any progress.

Sharon who works for Plymouth City Council housing department, front-crawled her way to the record and hopes to have raised a lot of money for Plymouth and District Leukaemia Fund.

She also holds the record for swimming from the Hoe to the Breakwater.











# NEW CHALLENGE FOR S. DEVON SWIMMER

KINGSKERSWELL swimmer Christine Sifleet, tomorrow attempts to become the first woman to complete the 14-mile swim from Eddystone Light to Plymouth Hoe. The 17-year-old Channel swimmer was practising yesterday and expecting an improvement in the weather. Good tidal conditions are also promised. Christine will hope to beat the times of her two male predecessors. Jabez Wolffe took 10 hours 45 minutes and 2 seconds in 1914. Brian Palmer 12½ hours in 1964 when he had to battle against the tide inside the breakwater. Christine and the pilot boat will leave Mayflower Steps at 3.30 am tomorrow and she will enter the water off the Eddystone at about 5.30. She is expected to reach the Leander Steps, Plymouth Hoe, by about 2.30 pm.



## Swimmer Christine plans toughest battle

THE SILVER Jubilee Year ambition of 17-year-old long-distance swimmer, Christine Sifleet, of the Devonport Royal Swimming Association, is to become the first woman to swim the 14-mile stretch from the Eddystone Light to Plymouth Hoe, on July 26.

Christine, who won the women's race in the Torbay swim last week and has already done the Channel swim, can expect the Eddystone to Plymouth Hoe swim to be one of her toughest tests yet because of cross currents.

Only two swimmers have previously made it — Jabez Wolffe, in 10 hours, 45 minutes, 2 seconds in 1914; and Brian Palmer of Plymstock, in 12½ hours, in 1964, when the final stretch from the Breakwater to the Hoe found him battling against the tide.

Christine will leave the Mayflower Steps aboard the boat Julian Ann at 4 a.m. on July 26, to get to the Eddystone in time to start the swim in accordance with a programme which has made an exact science of time and tide.

With her will be the pilot, Mr. Danny Catterell and an official party, including Mill Millar (Plymouth Leander), Katrina Critton, Elizabeth Harrison, Jan Glynn, and Torquay coach, Brian Hill and swimmers Joan Dobson and John Newlyn. Christine will swim against the

tide for the first three hours and it is calculated, though winds and currents can be unpredictable, she will then have the sea with her. Tides running at 1½ knots can be expected.

If the swim goes to plan, she should be coming ashore at the Leander Steps, below the Hoe, about 2.30 p.m. members of the Devonport club are expected to swim out to meet her.

Christine lives at Kingsteignton and is a student at the South Devon Technical College. "I would regard the Eddystone swim as one of the hardest for long-distance swimmers," said Reg Bossom, Press officer of the Devonport club.

# Christine sets swim record

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Christine Sifleet set up a new record when she swam the 14 miles from the Eddystone Lighthouse to Plymouth Hoe yesterday, and the first thing she wanted on wading ashore through the cheering crowd at the Leander Steps was a big ice-cream.

Christine, who lives at Park Inn, Coles Lane, Kingskerswell, did the swim in 10 hours 1 minute 30 seconds. The previous record was 10 hours 45 minutes 2 seconds, by Jabez Wolffe in 1914.

The only other swimmer believed ever to have completed the swim was Brian Palmer, of Plymstock, who took 12½ hours in 1964.

Christine, who is a member of the Devonport Royal Swimming Association and the Torbay Long Distance Swimming Club, told reporters and friends she felt "exhausted." She found the most difficult stretch was from Penlee Point to the Breakwater.

In the water Christine kept up her energy by munching tuna fish sandwiches, chocolate and drinking orange squash, milk and coffee.

### Two boats

What did she think about during her marathon swim?

"I just kept wishing that the Breakwater would come nearer. It never seemed to get any closer and the lighthouse seemed to be the same size," she said.

Two boats accompanied Christine, who is a student at the South Devon Technical College. In one boat were her father,

Sidney, coach Mr. Brian Hill, and the organiser of the swim, Mr. Reg Bossom.

The party left the Mayflower Steps at 4.25 yesterday morning and the swim started at 6.24.

"When we first started the conditions were a little bit rough before the sun came up and then I would say for about a mile it was still rough. After that for about three, four, even five miles, the wind dropped and we had calm conditions until Penlee Point. Then the wind sprang up again," said Mr. Bossom.

### Double

Christine now hopes to do a double crossing of the English Channel next year, provided she can get sufficient sponsorship—about £1,000.

Meanwhile, Christine swam into a mystery yesterday, following a claim that a "Sadie MacDonald" was the first woman to have completed the Eddystone to Plymouth Hoe swim.

Mr. Bossom, who is 66 and has more than 50 years' active association with swimming in the port, said last night that if anyone could give him the date and time when Sadie MacDonald completed the swim he would be glad to check it with the City Library files.

