

Deer's lucky day!

Jane Byfield could hardly believe her eyes. It was just after 7.00am on Monday April 22nd when she looked out of her window and saw a deer running along the Main at Port Gaverne and leaping off the edge into the sea! She got on the phone to Coastguard Station Officer Ken Richards who in turn got on the phone to RNLi Station Hon Sec Bob Monk and asked him if he could send the Lifeboat round to Port Gaverne to have a look. Falmouth Coastguard Station were alerted to the situation and began co-ordinating a major rescue attempt.

By some miracle the deer had survived the fall from the Main and had started to swim out to sea. The Lifeboat reached the terrified animal and the crew encouraged it to return to shore where it reached safety through the surf and the rocks and into a cave at Cartway Cove.

The only access to Cartway is by sea or down the cliff face and the Port Isaac Coastguard Cliff Rescue team were soon in situ as were RSPCA officers and very shortly members of the press, radio and TV. The Lifeboat ferried Newquay vet Michael King to the scene and eventually he managed to score a successful tranquilliser shot. The immobilised deer was securely wrapped up and then taken up the long cliff face haul by a member of the Coastguard. An RSPCA ambulance then took the deer off to the RSPCA centre at St Columb. In the meantime RSPCA Officer Felicity Cross and vet, Michael King were both brought up the cliff by the Coastguard team.

Time for the Lifeboat to go back to the Station but with the rising tide and heavy surf breaking into Cartway Cove the crew had a tricky exit route to negotiate.

Later in the day the RSPCA confirmed that the deer had been fully checked over and had no major injuries. He has since been released back into the wild in a suitable countryside area.

There has been a lot of speculation as to where the deer came from. John Wiseman, Port Gaverne Harbourmaster, told *Trio* that a drowned deer was washed up on Port Gaverne beach about seven weeks ago. It was taken away by the National Trust who arranged for a post mortem on the animal and

Courtesy Trio



↑ Roy Speakman finds another guest for his forthcoming Stag Night Photo:Colin Shepherd

later reported back that the deer was in excellent condition with no injuries. The assumption was that it had gone into the sea somewhere along the coast and had eventually drowned due to exhaustion, thence been washed up on the first tide. A small herd of deer have been spotted on the other side of Boscastle.

But at the time of going to press, the favourite theory is that there are deer living in the valley.

