

Dramatic Cygnet Rescue by Waterfowl Warden

Following an alert by a visitor to the town, Dawlish Waterfowl Warden, Mr. Derek Porter, rushed to save one of the town 's four Black Swan cygnets which had become trapped underwater whilst trying to feed.



The cygnet was already unconscious by the time the Warden arrived and although he had no safety equipment with him, he plunged into the water, managed to free the cygnet and carry it to the bank where a small crowd of concerned residents and visitors had gathered.



Following several tense minutes trying to revive the bird, the Warden finally resorted to artificial respiration, blowing gently into the cygnet 's nostrils to revive it.

The Warden 's efforts were not appreciated by the cygnet 's parents who continually tried to attack him throughout the entire rescue operation.

Mr. Porter said "It was just lucky I was on hand at the brook. There was no time to collect waders or a life-jacket, I just had to jump in. It was only a twitch of his eye which alerted me to the fact the cygnet was still alive. I wasn' t sure if he was going to make it. "

Fortunately, following its adventure the cygnet has made a full recovery and is back with its parents on the brook.

The Town Council now has fourteen black swans, ten mature adults and four cygnets.

If you would like to adopt a Black Swan or any of the town 's other colourful waterfowl, contact the office on 01626 863388 for a form or download an adoption form from the Waterfowl section of the website.