

Bill Allen

The goldfish in the quarry pond.

A lot of people come up and enjoy the quarry up here, but on occasions people will come up and leave a lot of mess behind and unfortunately I do remember on one occasion coming up and there'd been an illegal barbeque the night before and they'd left rubbish and mess absolutely everywhere and I was up here busily clearing it up early one morning and I was aware of just a noise on the water, I looked round and whoever had had the barbeque had thrown some sliced bread out onto the water and there was an absolute frenzy of goldfish all feeding on it and I hadn't seen as many before.

So there are a lot of goldfish in this pond here?

There are, a surprising number, I mean you don't often see many of them because I reckon its probably between ten and twelve feet deep in places so obviously the first person in or the first dog into the water of the day they tend to just dive deep, but this was fairly early in the morning and obviously there was a bit of bread, so yes, it's surprising how many there are.

Any ideas where they've come from?

Well the story I always heard was someone going back from Widecombe Fair, you know, had just won a goldfish and just plonked it in there, which I always thinks quite a nice story, and whether it's the right one or not, that's the one I always stick with.

And it bred on from there.

I assume so yes, or whether people have added to them, but you don't come up and see hundreds and hundreds but just on occasions you see a few, which is nice.