





*The Ashworth family
with hotel hounds*

Introduction

by Toby Ashworth, Proprietor

Welcome to The Nare's 2017 newsletter – affectionately known as The Natter - where we round up a few goings on over the past year for our many regular and loyal guests who return year after year. I am pleased to report The Nare and her family are in fine fettle (as we remain a Union I guess this is an acceptable use of English) or maybe a more British “rude health” would be more accurate. Either way, The Nare continues to gently improve in its own classic, traditional way and is not buffeted by the challenges of our changing times. The Nare remains a sanctuary of dependable charm and comfort in the same stunning location on the south coast of Cornwall. As the politicians manage the rather awkward divorce from matters European – has anyone found John Major's pre-nup clause in the Maastricht treaty yet? It would be rather useful now - we will continue to enshrine the traditional British values and embrace our love of the Continent. Full English and continental breakfasts will still be served at The Nare and, in jest, a check-in routine at The Nare may resort back to an

old-style blue British passport “permitting the bearer...”; purely to retain the charm of a quintessential British hotel.

Of course the greatest asset we have at The Nare is the long-term and loyal staff who help to create the warm and welcoming ambience with their relaxed yet attentive, old-fashioned, unobtrusive, and friendly service. I am particularly proud to welcome back half a dozen or so previous employees who report that pastures new are not so green. Dear Alex, who many of you will remember reluctantly retired last year, has also returned having recovered from an illness and boredom. I am very pleased to announce and introduce our new General Manager, Matthew Voyle, who started this



Matthew Voyle, the new GM

summer and has impressed the directors with his balanced respect for The Nare philosophy, calm confident manner, and prior culinary experience. He is already reinforcing the qualities and comforts that Nare guests expect.

Of great satisfaction to note in the past year is the record number of guests who have experienced a day on the Fal and Helford rivers in Alice Rose, The Nare's classic motor launch. Whether it has been spotting dolphins in the bay, taking in the stunning Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or dipping into the nuances of a spy mission, guests have appreciated the unique experience. Likewise several three and four-generation families have enjoyed the fun of our annual sand castle challenge. The three Cornish mining shovels that live behind the front door have been well used and the winners this year were the Gambier family. Granny's photographic skills helped beat last year's winners, the Snow/Clarke team.

Our chauffeur and Range Rover service to guests' homes has been very well received and, at times, we have been unable to keep up with the demand for the service. So much so that in March this year



we purchased a new Mercedes 8-seater luxury vehicle to help with the chauffeur and courtesy services to and from the station and airport. I still believe we are the only hotel in England to operate a licensed door-to-door chauffeur service exclusively for guests. At the moment our interior design team are busy finalising the choices of material for redecorating the Dining Room and the Drawing Room, and I know that several bedrooms are also due for a refurbishment this winter. There have been discussions with Lewis and Wood and GP & J Baker regarding some choice wallpapers and I am very much looking forward to seeing the new designs being put in place. Likewise looking forward, and after four years in the waiting, we were blessed by Cornwall Council granting our planning permission. After such a long wait and testing of patience the subsequent anti-climax on hearing the good news was probably on a par with receiving my rather modest A level results



The Nare perpetual sandcastle competition, won this year by the Gambier family

some years ago! We shall start in due course with building the new staff quarters in Tregony. In subsequent years we will improve on the old buildings and garages across the lane from the hotel. Needless to say, from the aforementioned pace, this is a long-term project to be achieved piece by piece each winter. The improvements will not affect the seasonal operation of the hotel.

'Taking a leaf out of friend Will Butler Adams'

Brompton Bike philosophy that every firm should have a "fund for fun", our fun at The Nare this year was the publication of a short spy novel set on the Roseland. Please do read on and find out how it came about and other things that are going on this autumn. We look forward to welcoming you back to The Nare.

With very best wishes,

Toby Ashworth

The Flower Garden

In order to support the requirement to have elegant, freshly cut flowers adorning dining and dressing tables in the hotel all year round Karl, the head gardener has been cultivating The Nare's own walled garden located near the The Lost Garden

of Heligan. It was first featured in the 2015 edition of The Natter when the garden was being laid out. Since then it has been producing plentiful supplies of several different varieties of flowers and a planting plan continues this winter.

Karl, Head Gardener



Rebecca Ivatts' painting,
'Hope Springs Eternal'



Cornwall Spring Story 2017

- the moment Cornish Magnolias flower, spring has arrived in England

Although 28th February was declared the arrival of Spring in 2017, the annual party was hosted by The Nare on 6th March.

During the evening Rebecca Ivatts revealed her splendid oil painting of Magnolias blooming. The painting was commissioned by The Nare and completed during Rebecca's stay, the week that the magnolias were blooming. The painting is titled "Spring Hopes Eternal" and is a dramatic depiction of the Magnolia as it goes through its various stages of coming into

flower. Rebecca's style of passion and feeling of the moment very much comes alive in the painting. Now the oil has fully dried the painting is on display in the hotel with a note to explain about the foundation of Cornwall's Spring Story by The Nare.

At the same event The Great Gardens of Cornwall celebrated 25 years since their foundation as an organisation and launched a super book *The Great Gardens of Cornwall: The People and Their Plants*.

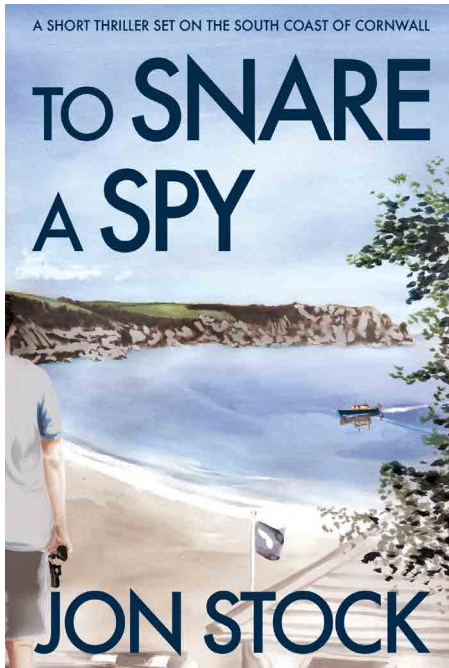


Distinguished guests at the launch



Charles Williams, Chairman of The Great Gardens of Cornwall

The Nare publishes spy thriller



Jon Stock and
Toby Ashworth

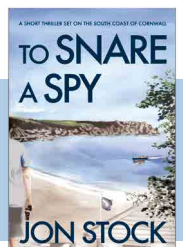
In April of this year The Nare hotel's first novel, *To Snare A Spy*, was published. The short spy thriller, set at the hotel and featuring several long-standing staff members, was commissioned by The Nare and written by acclaimed author Jon Stock. The idea for the book was the result of several nautical escapades involving Jon and Toby, and often whilst discussing their mutual appreciation for all things 'spy'. Toby recalls...

"As author of five previous spy thrillers, whenever Jon Stock visits us in Cornwall I always allow my imagination to change into the fifth gear of espionage. The first occasion I met Jon, Hilary and their fun-loving family was when helping to research some detail for Jon's 2011 spy thriller *Games Traitors Play*. The challenge, to land – realistically and without suspicion – a spy off a Russian tanker anchored in Falmouth Bay onto the rocks under St Anthony Head, was well within the remit of an ex-naval officer turned independent hotelier. We used the hotel's Cornish

Crabber to get in close underneath the cliffs, where we contrived a storyline that would allow for a helicopter from RNAS Culdrose to be hijacked.

A couple of bottles of Taittinger and a few years later, Jon and I started plotting. The ingredients of another thriller were emerging, just asking to be set within the stunning coastal scenery of The Nare and the Roseland Peninsula. We have a favourite family saying: "There's never a dull moment running an hotel". As you can imagine there are many stories to be told. Hotels are fascinating places where different characters come together in an intoxicating social mix that reveals extraordinary backgrounds and contacts. The serenity and comfort of the front of house counterpoints beautifully with the behind-the-scenes passion and determination to ensure that all is provided for guests. It is this fine balance that makes running hotels such a buzz – and the perfect backdrop for a spy thriller." Before long *To Snare A Spy* was born.

To Snare A Spy is a great holiday read and a splendid Christmas stocking filler. Call 01872 50 11 11 or visit www.tosnareaspys.com to buy a copy signed by Jon.



Espionage missions

To celebrate the launch of *To Snare A Spy* Nare guests have had the opportunity to interact with the storyline and dip into the covert nuances of the spy world themselves. Aspiring resident agents were tasked with assisting an on-going covert mission at the hotel. To understand the background to the operation agents were sent a copy of the book. Once embedded in the establishment secret briefs were dispatched to their rooms requesting they follow leads at locations across the Roseland, many of which are



included within the plot of *To Snare A Spy*. Agents were then expected to identify a mole suspected to be a member of the staff within the hotel and make covert contact. There has been much enthusiasm

and fabulous feedback from participating guests. Others have been blissfully unaware of any



spy activity, such was the secrecy with which agents maintained the undercover operation. The Nare's 38' classic motor launch, Alice Rose, was used for all of the maritime missions, landing agents at key locations along the Fal and Helford rivers. Espionage missions by land will continue into the autumn and winter. They are great fun and an ideal activity to do in small groups or as a family.



Landing point on the Helford river

Alice Rose, a key component in the book and espionage missions



To Snare A Spy book launch

To celebrate the publication of *To Snare A Spy*, a fully interactive book launch was hosted at The Nare in April. Just as guests stepped out on the lawn into the evening sun overlooking Gerrans Bay, Alice Rose appeared at full chat from behind Nare Head closely followed by a pursuing rigid inflatable. A stunt straight from a scene in chapter 18, the setting was magical. With the help of Taittinger there followed later in May a further press launch and book signing at the Sloane Club in London.

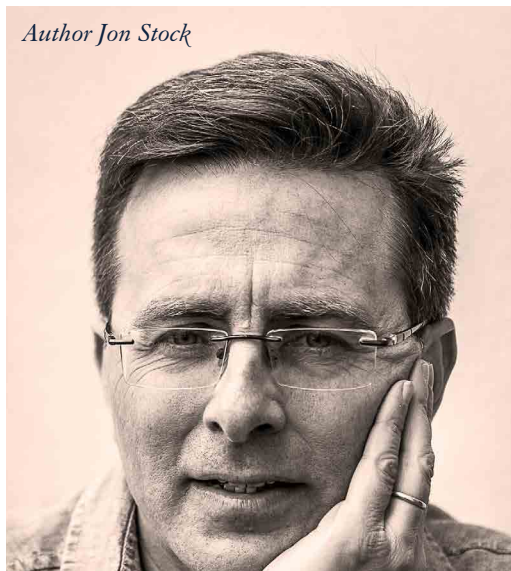
Apart from being considered a novel piece of marketing, a good holiday read, or simply an ideal gift for guests to take away as a memento



of their stay, *To Snare a Spy* is dedicated more importantly *To all the staff at The Nare*. It is well-deserved recognition and a heartfelt thanks for all the hard work that they put towards making every guest staying at The Nare feel comfortable.

Creative writing breaks

Author Jon Stock



Jon Stock, the best-selling author of *To Snare a Spy* and five other espionage thrillers, will be Writer-in-Residence at The Nare from 20th - 24th November and 19th - 23rd February. He will be tutoring and talking about creative writing skills based on his experience as a journalist, newspaper editor and author.

Aspiring writers who sign up to one of these four day *Creative Writing Breaks* will hear the story behind *To Snare a Spy* and, during two relaxed morning workshops, discover the tools required to write thrillers. Topics will include characterisation, plot twists and narrative style. Jon will also be available to spend one-on-one time with those who wish to maximise this unique opportunity.



As part of your stay there will also be a chance to visit some of the beautiful scenery featured in *To Snare a Spy*, which is set at The Nare and on the Roseland - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is an ideal break for anyone who wants to write their own novel or who just wants a behind-the-scenes insight into the world of books and being an author. For information on the *Creative Writing Breaks* please contact Reservations on 01872 50 11 11 or email stay@narehotel.co.uk.

New website coming soon

The last few years have seen an acceleration in the range of devices being used to view websites, with the majority of online activity now being done on iPads, tablets, and mobile phones. In order to improve the browser experience and remain relevant, The Nare is designing a new website. The new Marketing Manager, Jamie Moore, is co-ordinating this project to ensure the new site maintains the feel and flavour of The Nare style and character but with the subtle updates required. As well as being mobile and tablet friendly the new site will benefit from some enhanced photography and aerial video footage to really showcase the The Nare's superb location and the stunning sea views.



The site is expected to be launched at the end of October. An email will be sent out to guests once the site is live.

Limited edition Cornish wine

- released at The Nare this autumn

The Nare is always keen to support local suppliers and has been working with award-winning Cornish vineyard, Polgoon, to offer guests something unique this autumn. The 2016 limited edition Bacchus is only available in Cornwall and from just six venues. The wine has gained excellent reviews and will be available at The Nare. It will also be shown at one of the wine tasting nights this autumn (dates on the back page).



Polgoon Vineyard has also been in partnership with the famous Newlyn School of Art. Polgoon owner, Jon Coulson explains...“It was a deep appreciation of Cornwall’s stunning natural beauty which inspired me to approach the tutors at Newlyn School of Art and commission them to create a painting that ‘portrayed our mutual passion for the Cornish landscape’. The painting was then used as the label artwork for the Bacchus 2016’.

As an exclusive partner The Nare will also be displaying the original painting in the hotel for a limited period from November. Limited edition prints of the painting signed by the artist are also available to purchase on request.



Get away this autumn and winter

Traditional four day breaks

After the summer season The Nare offers its Traditional Four Day Breaks which are available every year from November through to April (excluding the Christmas and New Year house parties). Come and stay four nights in luxurious surroundings overlooking Carne Beach and escape the hurly burly of life to unwind and relax in comfort. There is a varied programme of interesting events during the autumn and winter months, some of which are outlined below.

Friendly rubber bridge

The Nare's very popular friendly rubber *Bridge Breaks* are returning in the autumn as usual. *Bridge Breaks* at The Nare are very relaxed and convivial, and certainly not competitive affairs. They are not suitable for anyone who gets too serious. One can decide from day to day how much one wishes to play, the tea-time and after dinner sessions being the most popular.

Sally Hooper, who is both very personable and charming, will be the hostess again for both breaks. She helps make sure guests who wish to play are being looked after and have partners to play with and against. Apart from being considered a useful player, she does dispense the odd gentle tip of advice to those who request some guidance.

Four day *Bridge Breaks* run from 13th - 17th November and 5th - 9th February 2018.

October half term

Families staying at The Nare during October half term can now benefit from several added inclusive activities for children. The front-of-house team have a full range of fun activities to choose from, such as horse riding, tennis lessons, mini spa treatments, and art lessons with the Artist-in-Residence. Finally, why not add a little spice to the visit and go undercover on an espionage mission...



Espionage missions

Following on from the launch of *To Snare A Spy*, aspiring resident agents have been recruited during the summer to assist in an on-going, covert mission to identify a suspected mole in the staff. With the investigation now gathering pace land missions across the Roseland will continue this autumn. Have you got what it takes to be a spy for a day? Test yourself on one of The Nare espionage missions. They are family friendly and a fun way to discover the great outdoors whilst staying at The Nare.



Get away this autumn and winter

Walking

The location of The Nare is unique in so many ways. Apart from the stunning sea views, The Nare is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on the Roseland Heritage Coast. It is surrounded by unspoilt National Trust land and has direct access to the South West Coastal Path and its dramatic coastal scenery. Subsequently there are a plethora of fabulous dog-friendly walks with easy access from the hotel. New for 2017, The Nare is also offering bespoke guided walks further-a-field with a trusted Cornish rambler. Walks will feature the Lizard Peninsula, St. Ives and Lands End and are available from 22nd October to 1st April 2018.



Spa breaks

The Nare is a tranquil haven away from the bustle of life where you can be truly pampered. The ultimate way to unwind is on a *Get Away From It All Break*, which are available from November through to April. The Carne Bay Spa is located in a quiet corner of the hotel where you will find a calming treatment room and a full menu of therapies. The four-night breaks include two spa treatments of your choice along with full use of the leisure facilities. Swim in the warm indoor pool, relax in the outdoor hot tub, with the best view in Cornwall, or simply sit by the fire in comfort with a good book.



Wine tasting

During the autumn through to spring The Nare's series of pre-dinner wine tastings will be continuing. They are light-hearted, not too serious and yet still informative. They are entirely suitable for anyone who enjoys the odd glass of wine and give guests the opportunity to experience wines from across the world. Amongst others we will have the locally sourced limited edition Bacchus wine from Polgoon vineyard to taste. See the back page for all the wine tasting dates.

Christmas card writing

Again this year, as Christmas draws near, the invitation for guests to write their Christmas cards from the warmth and comfort of The Nare beckons. Curl up by a cosy fire with a sumptuous Cornish cream tea whilst you write your cards. As is becoming the custom, the offer is for The Nare to stamp and post your handwritten cards to friends and family. Charity Christmas cards are available at the hotel and the postage charges are covered by the hotel.



Garden breaks for spring 2018

Cornwall has a mild sub-tropical climate due to its geographical location on the edge of the Gulf Stream and as a result Cornish gardens are considered some of the most famous in the world. The Nare is conveniently located for many of these beautiful gardens and a *Spring Garden Break* enables you to see these gardens at their very best. From January through to April enjoy one of The Nare's four night garden breaks, with entry to three great gardens of your choice. Do be careful not to miss Cornwall's Spring Story - the moment Cornish magnolias flower – and the early arrival of spring in the South West. Please contact Reservations on 01872 50 11 11 for more details of our popular garden breaks.

Dates for the diary

November

Wine Tasting: 3rd, 23rd

Bridge Break: 13th - 17th

Creative Writing Break: 20th - 24th

December

Wine Tasting: 7th

Christmas House Party: 23rd - 27th

New Year House Party: 30th - 2nd

January

Wine Tasting: 25th

February

Wine Tasting: 22nd

Bridge Break: 5th - 9th

Creative Writing Break: 19th - 23rd

March

Wine Tasting: 15th

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