





Introduction

by Toby Ashworth, Proprietor

Welcome to The Natter – the informal annual newsletter of The Nare. If any year is to be remembered for its meteorological temperament then surely 2018 is one to note. A very wet winter, a quick brief spring flowering of magnolias before the forecaster's toys were thrown out of the pram with a brisk snow-laden cold snap, followed by a long dry summer - we live in interesting times. For me this enhances the relative comfort of The Nare; that in such uncertain times the hotel continues to flourish yet remains a constant of stability in a changing world. Much of this is attributed firmly to our staff remaining loyal and dedicated to looking after the many returning guests.

Of particular note this year is that Ken, Head Barman and affectionately known as father of the house, has been at The Nare allegedly for forty years - although presumably not all of that time wearing long trousers. Daphne Burt, my grandmother's right hand, confidante, and general manageress will have, on New Year's Day, completed her 60th year of loyalty with the family business. Although attempting to retire for the second time she assures me she will be coming into the hotel regularly to check that the standards are being improved.

There are several articles in The Natter describing life at The Nare this year. Many guests have been pleased with the refurbishments to the drawing room, cocktail bar and the dining room. Katie, my wife, chose some delightfully bold papers and fabrics from GP & J Baker, and lamps from David Hunt lighting. I was even allowed a say in the modest degrees of femininity of the nymph statues in the dining room alcoves – something to please everyone was the brief. I took a lead from Winston Churchill who I seem to recall complimented his well-endowed American hostess on the delicious white-meat!

I was also egged on by Matthew Voyle, the amiable General Manager, to have an eventful year in The Nare marketing stunts department. Having missed our usual family ski holiday I had a (very) brief opportunity on 1st March. Starting in the top field with a turn or two off-piste in suspect Cornish powder, a short wedeln down the lane, a GS sweep into the drive, and a Christie stop at the front door was quite enough for my edges – I was more than ready for a cream tea. If the mark of a good (skiing) hotel is the ability to ski right to the front door, then The Nare should qualify handsomely.

I was likewise ready for a quenching cuppa one hot July day having driven The Nare's new Morgan from the Malvern Hills through the delightful Herefordshire countryside to the front door. Sleeves and revs up, hood down – it was warm work, but immensely enjoyable, and quite definitely Britain at its best. Surely there's a challenge here. How many different ways and in what style can one arrive at The Nare in time for a cream tea? Any member of the good ideas club please read on.

There was some more warm work when observing from Alice Rose the start of the tremendous Golden Globe 50th Anniversary race in Falmouth Bay. Robin Knox-Johnston's enthusiasm with the starting cannon aboard his veteran yacht Suhaili gave our VIP crew a close shave, but a memorable experience none the less.

Latter(sic) in The Natter one will read about the Head Gardener Karl's extraordinary horticultural success with what can only be described as an asparagus on steroids developing cauliflower ears - something seemingly straight out of a fairy tale with a lad named Jack.

So please do come and visit us at The Nare – if only for a cream tea...

Toby Ashworth

The year so far...



Magnolias marked the start of spring



Royal Wedding Tea Party



Alice Rose scheduled sailings



Morgan Drinks Party



Matthew Voyle at the weekly cocktail party



Summer holiday beach fun



Steve Morris visits with his own Morgan



Ken's Agave cocktail



Summer activities for families



Alice Rose and Suhaili at 50th anniversary



Morgan videoshoot



Karl speaking at the Agave Drinks Party



26th February 2018 - Magnolias were in full bloom



1st March 2018 - The worst snow to hit Cornwall in over 40 years

Spring interrupted one week after being declared

Positioned on the edge of the Gulf Stream, Cornwall enjoys a mild maritime climate which has the effect of warmer average temperatures and more sunshine than the rest of Britain. The climate allows spring to arrive first in Cornwall and is announced each year with Cornwall's Spring Story - the moment Cornish Magnolias flower spring has arrived in England. It was founded by The Nare almost ten years ago. This year spring was announced on **26th February**, however, by the end of the week it was interrupted rudely and harshly by an extreme weather system. Even Cornwall could not escape the cold snap and experienced the worst snow and blizzards for over 40 years.

The usually mild sub-tropical climate on the Roseland makes snow at The Nare a very rare sight. So rare that the hotel

introduced a **No Snow Policy** over 20 years ago: "Residents may have one of their four night's stay without charge if snow lies on the cocktail bar terrace for more than 24 hours. The only exception to the policy is over the Christmas and New Year period when snow is considered desirable for decorative purposes". There had never been a call.

Despite valiant attempts by staff to thaw the snow (above) The Nare of course honoured the No Snow Policy and provided an extra night without charge for residents. In true ski resort style the kitchen prepared tartiflette and glühwein and guests were treated to the spectacle of Toby skiing down to the hotel in time for afternoon tea. Do watch the video at www.narehotel.co.uk/ski. Needless to say the snow lasted less than 48 hours before usual conditions were restored.

Golden Globe 50th anniversary

On 14th June 2018 Falmouth celebrated the 50th anniversary of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's departure in the 1968 *Sunday Times Golden Globe* race. It was this race in which Sir Robin became the first man to sail solo non-stop around the Globe. This year the British master mariner returned to man his rugged 32ft yacht Suhaili and lead a celebratory parade of sail around the harbour. It was watched by visitors on every headland. The 200-strong armada of sail criss-crossed between Falmouth and St Mawes before Sir Robin set up a start line between Suhaili and Sir Francis Chichester's equally famous yacht Gipsy Moth IV. He fired the canon to set the 17-strong fleet of 2018 Golden Globe yachts on their way.



It was The Nare's privilege to host several VIPs including legendary photographer Bill Rowntree aboard Alice Rose for the anniversary celebration. Bill famously photographed Sir Robin in 1968 as he returned into Falmouth following his 30,000 mile and 312 day voyage. The Nare's General Manager, Matthew Voyle, captured the historic moment Bill replicated his famous shot approaching Falmouth harbour.



Falmouth, St Mawes and the Fal River are close to The Nare and all have a strong sailing heritage. There are maritime events throughout the year, including Falmouth Sailing Regatta, Falmouth Classics and J-class yacht racing.

The Nare's giant Agave flowers over 33 weeks

This year has seen the flowering of one of The Nare's *Agave Americana* plants for the first time in 25 years. Native to the hot and dry climates of Mexico and the southern United States, the flowering of an *Agave Americana* is a very rare sight in Britain.

The *Agave Americana* is more commonly known as 'The Century Plant' but its name is misleading as the plant typically lives for twenty to thirty years. The hotel's flowering Agave was planted by Head Gardener, Karl Whitford (pictured opposite with his wife Melanie), when he began working for the hotel 21 years ago. Since then it has grown in size and stature but never flowered before. After at least 20 years of storing enormous food reserves in its leaves the plant produced a huge central shoot. It thickened and grew over several months before producing a stunning formation of rosette shaped succulents.

On Friday 5th January Karl noticed the Agave was producing its central shoot and immediately recognised this to be the first sign of the flowering process. He explains: *"As a professional gardener I have been growing and tending subtropical plants for over 34 years and have never seen a giant Agave flower. I have known about these plants for a long time and seen them fully flowered in the Canary Islands but never here in the UK. There are actually very few Agave plants that thrive here and I believe only one or two have flowered in the last 15 years. It was 190 days before the first flower opened, on 15th July, and it has been such a thrill to watch this spectacle evolve."*

Throughout the year guests admired with much curiosity as the Agave rose high into the air. Once fully flowered it stood at just over 27ft which was considered to be the largest coastal Agave in Britain. It was a staggering spectacle against the backdrop of Gerrans Bay and now the plant is dying slowly to make way for the next colony. There's no doubt this was a grand finale.

Watch the time-lapse video at
www.narehotel.co.uk/agave



On 25th July the flowering of the stunning Agave was celebrated at a summer drinks party with guests and gardeners from across Cornwall. Horticultural expert Jonathan Jones, of nearby Tregothnan Estate, was the guest speaker and explained its significance: *"To see an Agave Americana flower is a once in a generation or perhaps once in a lifetime opportunity. The Nare's Agave has clearly benefited from the unique climate on the Roseland Peninsula. What a treat for this summer's hotel guests who have enjoyed the luxury of The Nare with the addition of such a stunning spectacle – a Mexican flora bigger than most of those in Mexico."*



Agave cocktail anyone?

Sap from the *Agave Americana* plant is used to produce a spirit called Mezcal. Similar to Tequila, which originates from the *Blue Agave*, it has a more smoky flavour. As much as a thousand litres of sap can be collected from a single plant. Currently The Nare is contacting distilleries to see if anyone is interested at having a shot.

In honour of the giant Agave's flowering Head Barman, Ken Cracknell, concocted the *Agave Finale* - a refreshing long-drink based on the Mexican Paloma.



A new classic sports car

This summer The Nare acquired a new Morgan 4/4 sports car thanks to a unique partnership with Pride of Britain Hotels and Morgan Motor Company. The concept behind *The Morgan* was to provide guests with an opportunity to experience the thrill of driving a classic car on the fun and scenic roads that exist across Cornwall. There are wonderful routes that sweep through woodland, countryside and along dramatic sections of the Cornish coast with stunning sea views. The Nare is the first hotel in Britain to have a Morgan sports car exclusively for guests to hire and has put together four scenic routes that include the most exhilarating roads and views. With the picnic hamper strapped to the luggage rack guests may enjoy a delicious seafood lunch at a secluded coastal spot.

The Morgan was built in June to Nare specifications and seems a most appropriate addition to the hotel - a classic British sports car joining a classic British hotel. It is certainly worthy of its "classic" label since it is renowned as the longest running production vehicle in the world.



In late June Toby visited Morgan Motor Company HQ in Malvern to inspect the new motor and check it was fully Nare-worthy. Having established she was in fine fettle he set off for the sunny south Cornish coast declining to take the quicker

motorway route. Instead he opted to make the most of driving all the way with the roof down, of course. *The Morgan* is great fun to drive and has already been enjoyed by many guests this summer.



A little extra fun

The hotel has also had some fun with the new motor including one Tuesday evening cocktail party being held on the croquet lawn with *The Morgan*. Guests were able to admire the car and get a feel for the view from behind the wheel. The Managing Director of Morgan Motor Company, Steve Morris, came down especially for the event in his bright orange Aero-8. In late July The Nare hosted a film crew to capture footage of guests driving the car in different locations on the Roseland.

Watch the new Morgan video at:
www.narehotel.co.uk/morgan

Surely The Morgan should have a nickname?

by Toby Ashworth

Some suggestions have come flooding in: Maggie – political connotations of a firm handbag, plus already have the boat; Moggie – overused, smelly cat; Morwenna – might offend my cousin. None have quite made it, but here's a whimsical suggestion - it might stick...votes please.

The Morgan does have some distinct similarities with *The Matron* from my old prep school. Of course she had a nickname, and if you had ever met her then you would certainly have not forgotten. Even if you hadn't met her then you probably did metaphorically for she was a Great British icon in her own right and an archetypal production of 100 years ago. So with an affectionate drive down the memory lane of the blistering hot summer of '76 it is with affection I now describe Miss Lois Spencer.

She was a classic institutional figure – a timeless model of her class. She had a light frame, trim bodywork boned with an ash frame with a deceptively stiff chassis as tough as steel. She was always immaculately turned out in a traditional conservative blue livery with all the appropriate trimmings one would expect. She was omnipresent at the front of house and appeared for all occasions, not just for quiet Sunday lunch outings.

Cave! She would give all the boys a very firm ride if not handled carefully, could easily drive you round the bend, and was best approached in a sportsmanlike gentlemanly



manner. Certainly not a soft-touch automatic yet she could go easily up and down the gears. Her approach to life was brisk, shirtsleeves neatly rolled up with an open top window policy in the dormitory – she liked fresh air - we had to run down to the bottom of the drive before breakfast each morning. Any potential ailments were met with the triage clarion checklist of: 1. Drink water, 2. Rub grease on it, 3. Sit on the lav - the latter being contemplative as well as constitutional in determining if there was anything really the matter with you. She could not but be admired for what she was, a classic of her time, and behind her back affectionately nicknamed “Gertie”!



Guest Review

Mrs Bromell, who stayed at The Nare in July, was so thrilled with her lesson with the hotel's Artist-in-Residence that she wanted to recommend it to other guests. She describes her lesson with her two daughters: *“We decided to do an art lesson with Jeanni and we were not disappointed. It was a wonderful activity to do as a family and what great results. None of us had ever painted before, and we were astonished at what we produced. Jeanni is an excellent communicator and a very effective teacher. I highly recommend this unique experience”*. Mrs Bromell is seen here (left) putting the finishing touches to her painting at the end of her lesson. The Nare has many other bespoke activities for guests including horse riding, tennis lessons and sea fishing.

Chauffeur Service

For a long while The Nare has had its own fleet of motor vehicles for the benefit of guests. In addition to the courtesy car that meets guests at Truro station and Newquay airport the hotel has a luxurious Range Rover and Mercedes V-class (8 seater). They are available to book for comfortable door-to door travel to the hotel from anywhere in Britain.

The chauffeur service is also available to guests for half or full day excursions across Cornwall, again another provision seldom offered by other hotels. Guests may book a dedicated chauffeur to visit fishing villages, beaches, gardens, museums, art galleries or simply have a tour of the local scenic area.



In Time For Tea challenge

Afternoon cream tea at 4 o'clock is a long-standing tradition at The Nare and one so warmly enjoyed by guests. It is one of many comforts offered at The Nare which is included within the tariff.

The Nare is challenging guests to get involved and have some fun with a new *In Time For Tea* competition. This idea was conceived following the freak snowfall incident in March when Toby had to use his Land Rover and chains to help guests reach the hotel. At the end of the day before the snow disappeared he took to his ski's to make it back to the hotel in time for afternoon tea. Do watch the video evidence at www.narehotel.co.uk/ski.

To get involved simply come up with imaginative footage of one's journey or arrival at the hotel and post it onto social media using the hashtag #timefortea and tag @thenarehotel. If possible please include a photo of a watch or clock at ten to four. For those less comfortable with social media, images or video may be sent via email to stay@narehotel.co.uk.

The prize for the winning entry is a choice of either a private sailing on Alice Rose or a full day's use of the hotel chauffeur service. The deadline for entries is 31st July 2019.

Note: If one needs luggage to arrive by an alternative means then NLA (Nare Luggage in Advance) can be arranged.



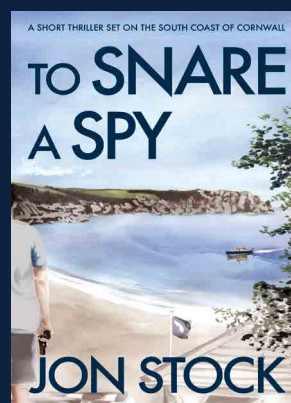
In time for tea?



Need an idea for a pressie?

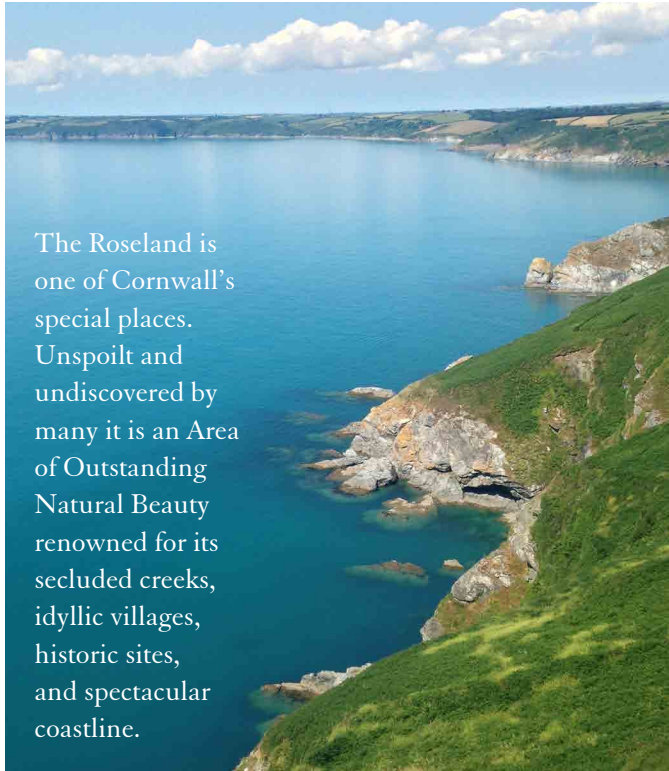
The Nare has a range of ties, pocket squares, cufflinks, and ladies scarves featuring the silhouette of Alice Rose, as modelled by Paul and Barbara opposite. With Christmas fast approaching these items would be an ideal stocking-filler. Other ideas include:

- *To Snare A Spy* - The Nare's book published in 2017, written by renowned spy author Jon Stock. It's a short thriller set at The Nare and features several long-standing staff members.
- 250-piece luxury wooden puzzle of The Nare or Alice Rose.



Autumn walking at The Nare

October and November are an ideal time to explore the beauty of Cornwall and the Roseland on foot. By October the summer's heat has lessened but, again thanks to Cornwall's maritime climate, temperatures are noticeably kinder than other parts of Britain. Cornwall and the Roseland is quieter too with landscapes adorned with autumn colours.



The Roseland is one of Cornwall's special places. Unspoilt and undiscovered by many it is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty renowned for its secluded creeks, idyllic villages, historic sites, and spectacular coastline.

The Nare is beautifully situated on the South West Coastal Path making it an ideal location for a leisurely walking break. With the benefit of The Nare's chauffeur service the hotel is also a great base from which to explore other parts of Cornwall, providing comfortable travel to walks that start or finish away from the hotel. Cosy armchairs, log fires and afternoon tea all make for a welcome return after a good walk. Dogs are also very much part of the walking arrangements.

The Nare has a stock of walking boots from *The Original Muck Boot Company* for guests to use. This company shares The Nare's passion for comfort, stating that they "build the most comfortable, high-performance footwear on the market." In addition the boot room has a range of hats, coats and walking sticks and there is a drying room for damp clobber.

New walking break

Introduced this year there is a relaxed four day walking break from 12th - 16th October. This will be non-strenuous and will feature a two hour guided walk each day led by Simon Hammond. (Many guests will already know Simon as the coxswain of Alice Rose). Walks will cover three very different parts of the Cornish coastline; the rugged north coast, the sleepy south coast, and along the banks of the beautiful Fal River. This is an ideal opportunity to explore scenery further-a-field than ordinarily one would venture alone. Walks will depart mid-morning and return in time for afternoon tea.

Scheduled guided walks

The Nare will be offering scheduled guided walks with Simon once a week from 18th October to the end of November. Similar to scheduled sailings on Alice Rose scheduled walks are open to all guests to simply join in. Walks are planned to take place each Thursday and cover sections of the Roseland coastline only a short drive from the hotel. One would depart mid-morning with the hotel chauffeur, walk the coast path for a couple of hours, before returning in time for lunch.

Private guided walks

Alternatively Simon is also available to be booked for bespoke private guided walks. There are many stunning sections of the Cornish coastal path, most notably on The Lizard peninsula, Kynance Cove, Sennen and Cape Cornwall. Guided walks are tailored to suit guests' preferred duration and difficulty. If one prefers to walk alone the hotel can provide recommendations, directions and maps for walks on the Roseland and in Cornwall.



Get away this autumn...



Traditional four day breaks

For many years now The Nare has offered really comfortable *Traditional Four Day Breaks* during the winter and spring seasons. Stay four nights in luxurious surroundings overlooking Carne Beach and escape the hurly burly of life to unwind and relax in comfort. There are a variety of four day breaks and events during the autumn which are outlined below.

This year these good value breaks are available from 1st October to 30th April, excluding Christmas and New Year.

Four day walking break

From 12th - 16th October The Nare is hosting a relaxed four day walking break with all the comforts of a *Traditional Four Day Break*. As mentioned on the previous page guided walks will cover three different Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and further-a-field than one would usually venture alone.

Alternatively stay in October or November and enjoy a scheduled guided walk normally on Thursdays. Private guided walks can be arranged at any time.



Friendly rubber bridge breaks

Friendly rubber *Bridge Breaks* are relaxed and convivial, and certainly not competitive affairs. One can decide from day to day how much to play, with the tea-time and after dinner sessions being the most popular.

Sally Hooper will be the hostess again, making sure guests who wish to play are being looked after and have partners to play with. Apart from being considered a useful player, she does dispense the odd gentle advice to those who request some guidance.

Four day *Bridge Breaks* are hosted on 12th - 16th November 2018 and 4th - 8th February 2019.

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*, available from October through to April inclusive.

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 break includes 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 sit by the fire in comfort with a good book.



Get away this autumn...



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. Wine tastings will be happening on the following dates:

November: Thursday 22nd
December: Thursday 6th

January 2019: Thursday 31st
February 2019: Wednesday 13th

Classic car break

Stay at The Nare Hotel this year and experience the thrill of driving the hotel's new classic Morgan 4/4 sports car.

Hire the car for a day to explore the beautiful countryside and scenic coastal roads across Cornwall and the Roseland Peninsula. The Nare has put together four recommended routes covering the north and south coast.

The Morgan picnic hamper can be stocked with a delicious sea-food picnic and strapped to the luggage rack to be enjoyed at a secluded coastal spot.



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. The custom 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.



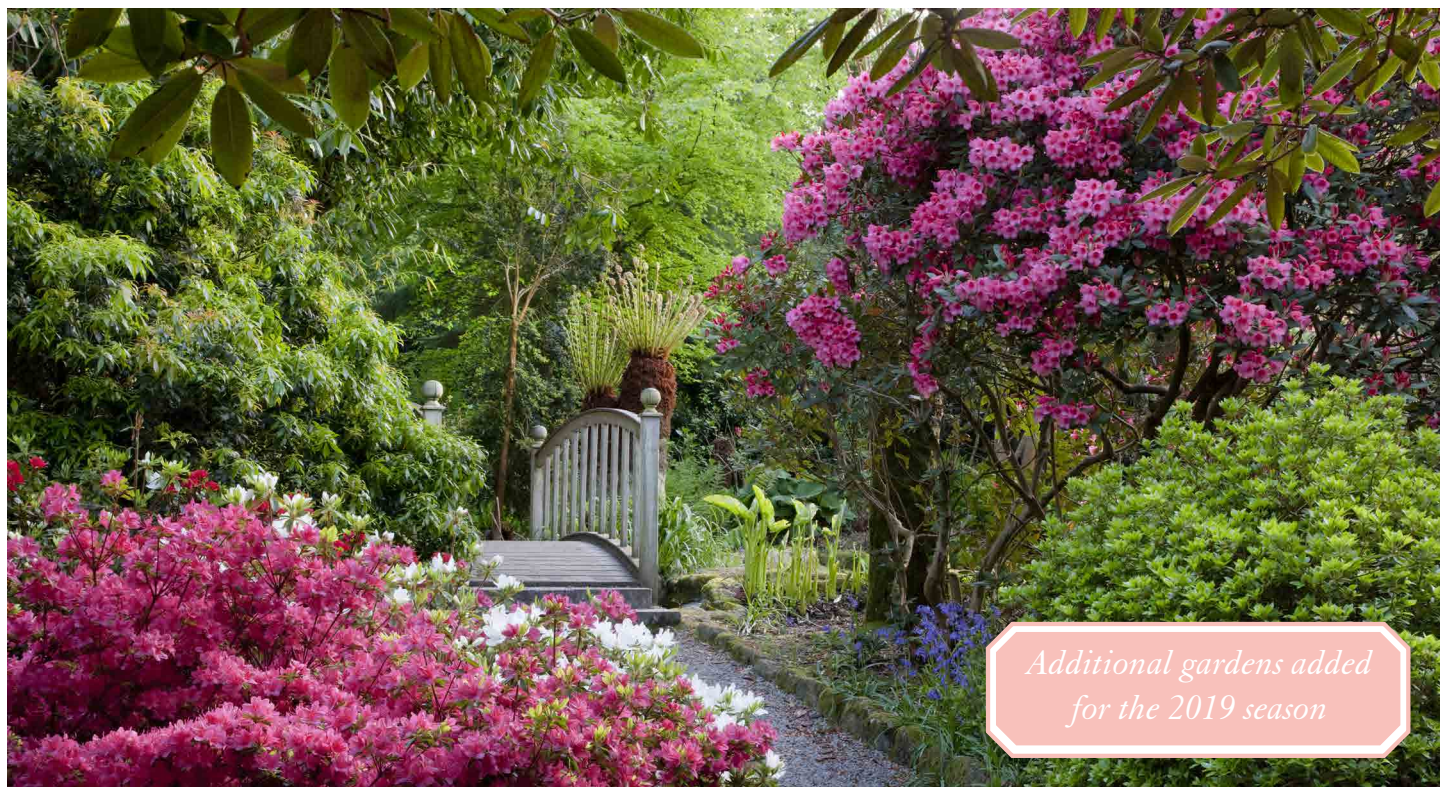
A place for all generations

The Nare is a place that genuinely caters for all generations of the family, a comfortable *home from home* for children through to great grandparents. The Nare has been fortunate to have many guests who have passed their special connection with the hotel to several generations of their family.

A guest recently shared how she first visited as a child and has since continued to return. Now in her golden years she brings her family each year, forming special memories of them enjoying The Nare. In turn, she hopes they will share their fond memories with generations to come.



Off down to the beach



Garden breaks for spring 2019

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 very early arrival of spring in the South West. Please contact Reservations for more details of the popular garden breaks.

Dates for the diary

October

Walking Break: 12th - 16th

Scheduled Walks: Once a week from 18th

November

Wine Tasting: 22nd

Bridge Break: 12th - 16th

Scheduled Walks: Once a week

December

Wine Tasting: 6th

Christmas House Party: 23rd - 28th

New Year House Party: 30th - 3rd January

January

Wine Tasting: 31st

February

Wine Tasting: 13th

Bridge Break: 4th - 8th

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