



Proprietor's Peace

by Toby Ashworth, Proprietor

I write this note sitting quietly and comfortably undisturbed in The Lookout, the newly formed reading/writing room of the Pendower Suite, reflecting and taking inspiration from the spectacular south and westerly views along the Cornish coast towards the Lizard. The autumn has been warm and kindly following on from the splendid summer weather, for which we were all truly grateful and justly rewarding for our loyal guests. Now in December it is cool, crisp, with clear skies, and peaceful.

Many guests have commented favourably on the integration of the newly formed Whittington Suites. Much to my relief it is not considered a carbuncle. The Little Tresco sub-tropical gardens have matured well, however I am also reflecting on the progress and subtle changes that guests may not have been aware that we have made, or indeed noticed over the last two years. Such as The Lookout, The Gatehouse (no longer the rather embarrassing bin-yard hiding behind the most convenient holly bush on the The Roseland), Jago House (17 new staff apartments in Tregony), the re-plumbing, re-painting, rewiring, burying of overhead cables, and re-hanging of artworks – all of which have been completed during what has been The Nare's longest period of closure since the 2nd World War.

To mis-quote Churchill; "Never in the field of hotel closure has so much been achieved by so many (£) for so few (guests)". At other times when the going was tough, I must admit I did empathise with Churchill's lavatorial wit for dealing with one serious matter at the same time as another. Hence what a tremendous relief it has been to be open and trading, briskly, for a whole uninterrupted year. The Whittington Suites have been well received and fully occupied.



I was determined in March, on the eve of the second anniversary of the first lockdown, to resume the weekly guests' cocktail parties in the Drawing Room albeit in a modified and limited format. I am pleased to say these parties will be properly reinstated once the new Quarterdeck extension, (east of the gallery and overlooking the outdoor swimming pool) is completed next year. Providing more ground floor space and a splendid room for cocktail parties, private dining, bridge, wine tastings, it could be best described as a room for small parties. Sadly (or gladly) it is not a "function suite" for weddings or conferences – a ghastly corporate term alien to a country house. The lady who dared suggest this has since apologised, rinsed her mouth with soap and water, and was subsequently enlightened with a glass of Champagne! Perhaps just a party room after all?

The Nare has not been immune from the national employment crisis in hospitality. Now, at the end of the season, is the time for me to reflect on the wisdom of match-funding guests' gratuities. With generous, appreciative guests, a healthy sum has been justly deserved by all staff who have worked a very long summer (March – November) covering for shortages. I am therefore very proud of Mr Voyle and his team for their pleasant demeanour, hard work, and loyalty which has easily justified an extra month's wages. Bravo!



"The Lookout – my peaceful hideaway for newsletter writing. It forms part of the Pendower Suite, just off the new entrance lobby with extensive views towards Porthscatho and The Lizard."



At last a chance to gather - a garden party in June to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Many guests will have met Julie Johns over the last forty years. She has stepped back from her role as deputy to the General Manager, Matthew Voyle. She now very ably assists Katie Ashworth, helping her to implement interior designs and schemes around the hotel – a very useful combination. In her place I am pleased to welcome back to his native Cornwall, Andrew Kirkby as Deputy General Manager. His experience abroad in luxury hotels stands him in good stead to help Matthew maintain and improve guest comforts.

Since the angst-ridden restrictions of the last couple of years, there has been much work re-establishing some of the traditional attributes of The Nare that I know guests are pleased to see restored. Renowned Nare comforts of afternoon cream tea by the fire, beef from the carving trolley, hors d'oeuvres, flambé, cheese and pudding trollies have returned - surely the collective would be "a sweet of trollies"? Christmas cracker joking aside, I am pleased to say the whole enchilada is back on top form.



Mr Kirkby, Deputy General Manager



Matthew Voyle collected the Best Service Award at the Johansen's Anniversary Celebration. The Nare was recognised as one the four remaining founding hotels in Derek Johansen's first guide 40 years ago.

With airport restrictions and bureaucracy still very prevalent, a hassle-free welcome at The Nare awaits. Yes, the porters will park your car and carry your bags, no striking here. You can be assured of an exceedingly comfortable stay. So, it gives me great pleasure in re-introducing The Nare's Traditional Four Day Breaks – the good value off-season refreshing get-away from the daily grind, and a great way to counter the January Blues and look forward to the March Magnolia Pinks with Cornwall's Spring Story (the moment Cornish magnolias flower, spring has arrived in England).

I very much look forward to welcoming you to The Nare.

Toby Ashworth
Proprietor

The Whittington Suites - (not) opened January 2021



It was billed as the lockdown party of the year. Boris may disagree. Nevertheless, to hold a launch party to open the Whittington Suites in January '21 was a challenge when one could not even legally visit The Nare. So, when needs must, an online Zoom party was thrown for 200 guests from Britain and around the world. Dame Judi Dench, with her usual charm very obligingly opened the suites. She was assisted by Cordelia and Georgiana Ashworth revealing plaques to their great and great-great grandmothers, Bettye and Olive Whittington respectively. Floor plans were printed on the back of wallpapers used in the suites to accompany the invitation. Taittinger and smoked salmon was delivered to guests that morning so that they could join in from home, mingling in small Zoom chat groups after a filmed conducted tour.



As one can imagine it was a huge relief when guests were allowed eventually to come and stay for the first time in May that year.



Cordelia Ashworth unveiled the plaque to her great grandmother

The online Zoom party for 200 guests from all over the world



The Carricknath ground floor bedroom leading through to the sitting room and a second bedroom.



The sitting room of the Polvarth Suite with bedrooms either side and a spectacular sea view.



Evening sunlight streaming into one of the bedrooms of the Polvarth Suite - one of four Greater Whittington Suites.



Little Tresco

Above: The entrance to the Whittington Suites, with the Little Tresco granite rockery and subtropical gardens planted by Karl, the head gardener.

Right: A complete transformation from a mudbath in January 2021.



The Nare is renowned for providing guests with a high standard of comfort unrivalled in the South West. For several years there has been a requirement to relocate and to provide better staff accommodation. After an abortive start caused by lockdown the former industrial units were demolished to allow for private single and double ensuite apartments. The building programme was completed in early 2022.

Jago House, located in Tregony five miles from the hotel, is home to approximately 20 staff. A car sharing scheme was introduced to help staff get to work.



The Gatehouse was an important part of improving the approach to the hotel. It was built using granite and Delabole slate. The first floor contains a meeting/training room with a workshop underneath allowing the bin yard to be relocated to the recycling yard. Dan uses an electric buggy to transport the refuse to the top of the hill.

Electric Vehicle Charge

The Nare may be deliberately traditional and old-fashioned but it is also subtly progressive where eco strategy is concerned. Toby Ashworth has always been rather cynical of ineffective gimmicky greenwash gestures that other hotels use for PR purposes and prefers to devise “deep-green” environmentally effective and appropriate solutions that make a genuine difference. Otherwise known as ‘Econitiatives’ - the art of genuine eco-friendly and economically viable initiatives (another of his off-the-wall inventions). Fondly referred to as The Nare’s ‘resident engineer’, he has improved on a scheme to recover heat from the water cooled fridges, wine cellars, and air-con units to preheat the hotel hot water supply. It is now enhanced with the addition of a ground source heat pump to chill the cold-water circuit and boost the heat.

During last summer’s heat wave it was working so well that the recovered heat exceeded the hotel demand and excess heat had to be dumped at 55°C into the outdoor pool. With some further tweaks, the aim is to switch off the oil fired boilers completely in the summer months by using the outdoor pool as a thermal battery.



The environmental dilemma of disguising ten ugly white electric vehicle charging stations in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was overcome by hiding them amongst the Millennium tree plantation, and perhaps laying claim to being one of the best sea view car parks in the country. There’s no fee for residents charging their cars provided they return the key fob – it costs more to replace than an overnight charge.

*Discover more about The Nare's 'econitiatives':
www.narehotel.co.uk/naregreenbits*

Looking forward at the 2023 calendar



March

Cornwall Spring Story – the moment Cornish Magnolias flower, spring has arrived in England. The Nare has been working with the Great Gardens of Cornwall for over a decade. Check out the bloomometer on the Nare website to determine the date of the botanical start of spring and best time for visiting the stunning displays of magnolias.

From January 12th

Pre-dinner guest wine tastings resume at The Nare. Please ask for more details.

February 6th - 10th

Jovial, relaxed and good-spirited, The Nare's Bridge Breaks are far from competitive affairs.



Credit: Falmouth Tall Ships Group

August 15th - 18th

The majestic Tall Ships will return to Falmouth as the town hosts the start of the prestigious Tall Ships Race to A Coruña in Spain. Come aboard Alice Rose to watch the start.



Alice Rose

June 24th

Falmouth is set to host the fifteenth Armed Forces Day national event. Many military personnel and their families will descend upon Falmouth.

The Nare's Traditional Four Day Breaks

Simply curl up on a sofa by the log fire and read a book, go for walks along the beach, play some bridge or visit the early Cornish Spring Gardens. There are plenty of things not to do. Rates in January start from £400 per night for a comfortable country view room for a couple and are inclusive of dinner, afternoon cream tea, full English breakfast and VAT. To book please contact reservations on 01872 50 11 11

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