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# WHINSTONE TIMES

*Community magazine for Embleton & Christon Bank*



*Edition No. 35*

*January – February 2015*

[www.embleton-northumberland.co.uk](http://www.embleton-northumberland.co.uk)

*Welcome to the new Embleton web site.*

*This is a community site containing information about Embleton and Christon Bank for those who live here, and interesting and helpful information for visitors.*

*The site is live, but is not yet completed, and more information will be added as time goes on. If anyone would like any material relating to the village – photos, memories, stories etc. - considered for inclusion (or have any constructive suggestions) please e-mail [marykibble@talktalk.net](mailto:marykibble@talktalk.net)*

## Editorial

Mary Kibble

Here we are again - another Christmas and New Year to celebrate and another opportunity to make all those New Year resolutions - some of which we may even manage to keep!

We hope you have enjoyed reading the Whinstone Times over the past year. As ever, a huge thank you to all those who have contributed, either by donations or by submitting articles etc. We very much appreciate your support and are always happy to hear from you.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all our readers.

**Please e-mail material for the next edition by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to:**

[whintimes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:whintimes@yahoo.co.uk) or call:-

Embleton - Mary Kibble 576608

Advertising - Jan Ainsley 576019

'What's On' & 'Sales & Wants' - Shelagh Coxon 576791

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies - Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard	999
Police (non-emergency)	101
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
NHS non-emergency care	111
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	0344 811 8111
Samaritans	0845 790 9090
Silverline (advice for older people)	0800 470 8090
Traveline	0871 200 2233
C.A.B. Northumberland Adviceline Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	08444 111

## Advance Notice

There will be a one-off BLUE BAG Collection in aid of Embleton Parish Room / Mandell's Coffee Pot on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>. Details in the next edition of the Whinstone Times.

### What's On in January

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Mandell's Coffee Pot re-opens in the Parish Church Room.
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** Women's Club - Kevin Redgrave, National Trust. 2.00 p.m.  
Creighton Hall.
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Carpet Bowls restarts. 7.00 p.m. Creighton Hall.
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** Craster W.I. - 7.15 p.m. Memorial Hall.
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>** Embleton W.I. - Desert Island Discs - Stuart Walton. Comp -  
Favourite piece of music & why.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Mothers' Union - AGM 2.00 p.m. at the Vicarage.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>** Whist Drive 1.30 p.m. Creighton Hall. Tickets £5 to include  
afternoon tea. All information from Linda Dixon 01665 576437.
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** Burns Night Supper & Ceildh, Craster Memorial Hall, 7 p.m.  
Tickets £7.50 (under 16's £4) from Doris Clarke, 576479 or Michael  
Gibbs, 576226.
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup>** Craster Local History Soc - The Alnwick to Cornhill Railway.  
Mr A.G. Sinton. 7.00 p.m. Memorial Hall.
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** North Sunderland Local History Soc - "The History of a  
Local Butcher" with George Scott. St. Paul's Church Hall, 7.00 p.m.
- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>** Embleton Flower Club Coffee Morning. 10.00 - noon Creighton  
Hall. Raffle, produce, tombola and arrangements for sale.

### What's On in February

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Women's Club - Speaker Dr Mike Guy 2.00 p.m. Creighton Hall.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** Craster W.I. 7.15 Memorial Hall.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>** Embleton Flower Club - AGM supper and DVD. All welcome.  
7.30 p.m. Creighton Hall.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Embleton W.I. - Talk by Karen Hedley from Alnwick Garden -  
"Elderberries". 2.00 p.m. Creighton Hall.
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** Mothers' Union - Worship in the Way of the Iona  
Community with Kate Potts. 2.00 p.m. Parish Room.
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** Craster Local History Soc - Hill Forts by Sarah Chamberlain.  
7.00 p.m. Memorial Hall.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>** Mothers' Union Pancake Coffee Morning. 10.00 a.m. Parish  
Room.
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** North Sunderland Local History Soc - Linda Bankier "The  
Flodden Project". St. Paul's Church Hall, 7.00 p.m.

*Part 2*

It was midnight before anyone settled down for some much needed sleep and, all too soon, it was 6 a.m. and a bugler sounded the notes which meant 'time to get up'. It was a cold wet morning and the sky was grey. A train arrived and the soldiers were surprised to see it consisted of cattle wagons. The soldiers had to stand up in cattle wagons, with 30 men in each wagon, but there was one first class coach for the officers. Sammy travelled in luxury in the comfortable first class coach with the officers. The train took them across the dull flat landscape of Northern France, which looked even more depressing than usual in the grey light of a wet day.



On leaving the train, the soldiers and Sammy began to march along straight roads lined with tall thin trees called poplar trees. As they marched, the rain soaked their groundsheets and dripped onto their khaki uniforms. Groundsheets were pieces of water-proof material that were used as rain-wear and also to sleep on. The soldiers could hear the heavy sound of guns firing in the distance, and they saw dirty orange flashes in the sky, as they marched past destroyed and burning farm buildings. They cheered themselves up by singing some of the popular war songs, such as 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. Sammy liked to hear the soldiers sing as they marched. That night, they rested in ruined farm buildings but were too cold and wet to sleep for long.

The soldiers expected to have some time in the reserve lines to begin to adjust to war, but in the evening of Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> they were ordered to move up to Ypres.

Ypres was the last little bit of Belgium that the Germans had failed to conquer and they were determined to capture it. The British Army was determined that they would not. If Ypres fell it could even mean the Germans might win the war. This is why fresh soldiers from England were being rushed into the fighting.

I must now explain what had happened two days before, and just a few miles away. On the sunny afternoon of Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> about 5 pm, the Germans launched the first gas attack on the Western Front. They sent a grey-green-yellow cloud of gas onto the French soldiers (and some Canadian soldiers) in their trenches near Ypres and there were 10,000 casualties. The French soldiers ran back grasping their throats and coughing violently because soldiers did not have gas masks in the early part of the war. Because of this gas attack the Germans were able to occupy St. Julien which was about 5 miles north east of Ypres. All of the signs indicated that the German Army was about to make a major attack on Ypres. It was vital to hold onto Ypres, but the problem was that there were not enough British troops in the trenches to hold them against a German attack. This is why the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Northumberland Fusiliers was told to attack St. Julien: to prevent the Germans launching their planned attack on Ypres before British reinforcements could be rushed to the front.

As the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers moved towards Ypres, the Germans were firing star shells into the air to light up the area to see where the British soldiers were. It was like bonfire night but this was war and not fun. The soldiers came to Ypres just as the town was being shelled and they were ordered to lie down flat to minimise the risk of casualties. Several horses and mules were killed, and two soldiers were injured. The once beautiful and ancient town of Ypres was in ruins and dense smoke and flames were rising out of roofless buildings. The famous Cathedral and the Medieval Cloth Hall were in ruins, and it was opposite these once beautiful old buildings that Sammy, and his group of soldiers lay down.

Ammunition wagons and other supply wagons were driven at a canter through the mud, some by as many as four or six horses when the load was heavy. The Battalion was held up because two wagons of supplies had overturned in the chaos of the shelling and had blocked the road. When the road was clear, the soldiers assembled in a field a little way from Ypres. A Battalion is a group of from 500 to 1000 men and is commanded by a Brigadier. Brigadier General James Riddell from Northumberland commanded the whole of the Northumberland Infantry Brigade at Ypres.

*To be continued ...*

## Notes from the Parish Council – October 2014

The meeting was told that half of the footpath from the Blue Bell to Sunny Brae has been tarmacked but work has stopped. The tarmac is rough and the footpath no better than before work commenced. The Clerk to contact Northumberland County Council (NCC) and request that the tarmac be levelled when the work on the footpath recommences, as it is unusable in its current condition.

With regard to the painted yellow line on the road next to Moody's shop - NCC are to visit the resident concerned.

Details of the broken kerbstones in Christon Bank are to be passed to the Clerk who will pass this information to NCC. The Identification of Sites for Potential Housing Development will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Chairman of the Joint Burial Committee (JBC) told the PC that the Land Registry documents have been found and the land is registered to the three PCs. At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct the JBC said that the JBC should in time be self-supporting; the house was to be refurbished and not sold. A survey is to be carried out and tenders were expected by the end of October.

The Precept for 2014/15 has been paid by Craster PC but not Embleton and Newton by the Sea PCs. However, Embleton's cheque was to be authorised immediately. It had been decided by the JBC that a new lawnmower would not now be purchased, but they would like to use the funds to further the building programme.

It was also agreed by the JBC that they would submit their precept for next year by the end of November.

The need for some delegated powers for the Chairman and Vice Chairman was highlighted by the fact that the Embleton Parish memorial wreath was delivered before its purchase had been authorised by the PC. It is in instances such as this that matter of delegated powers should be looked at again.

BT is proposing to remove phone boxes from several villages and invited the PCs of those affected to make comment before 11<sup>th</sup> November. The PC feels the phone box on the village green should not be removed as it is the only phone box in the village. There is not a good mobile signal in the

village and not everyone carries a mobile phone. The Clerk will communicate this feeling to BT.

The PC agreed to nominate Georgina Armstrong for the Local Hero scheme for her work re the Playpark.

An e-mail asking for support in rejecting the Ditchburn Wind Farm proposal had been received. The PC agreed to support the proposal to reject the wind farm.

The PC has received an invoice for the use of toilet facilities at the Parish Church Rooms (PCC) rooms during the summer. Members were asked if they wished to support the continuance of this facility over the winter. This was informally agreed by the PC and the matter is to be put on the PC agenda for the next meeting.

The PC was told that the dog bin at Christon Bank is not being emptied by NCC. It also seems that the new bin at Woodstead is not being emptied either. The PC felt it had fought for years for people to clear up after their dogs and if it can't provide the proper facilities people will fall back into their bad habit of not clearing the dirt. Clerk to write to NCC and ask what alternative they can offer as there is a need for these two bins. Tourism is big in Embleton and people bring their dogs.

It was stressed that the PC needed to be kept aware of progress with the housing development in the quarry and the work of the AONB. To cover the latter point it was agreed to invite a representative of the AONB to a PC meeting once a year.

Parking at Sunny Brae is becoming a problem. The PC asked the Clerk to write to residents to ask if they could help alleviate this problem by parking elsewhere. Concern was expressed that there may be a serious accident if nothing is done.

The PC agreed to have a Christmas tree on the village green this year. This should be in place by 6<sup>th</sup> December.

It was drawn to the attention of the PC that the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Merton College Oxford was approaching. In view of the long involvement of this College in the history of the Parish it was agreed that a short article would be prepared for the Whinstone Times.

The next meeting of the PC will be held at 7.30 p.m. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at the Meeting Room in Christon Bank Church Hall.

Last week I saw a red squirrel at the top of Dunstan Steads lane - the first I've seen for quite a long time. Have I just been unlucky or are they scarcer than ever? Have you seen any?

This is a good time of year for spotting many of the birds that visit Northumberland in the winter, like the Fieldfares and Redwings that arrive from Europe and Asia.

With such a good crop of berries this winter I wonder if the Waxwings will make the journey from Scandinavia to finish off any that are left on the rowans and whitebeams, but maybe there are plenty for them to eat at home.

With frequent sightings of a Sparrow Hawk in our garden the food put out for the little birds has had to be moved closer to some dense bushes to give them a chance of escape. They have to be quick if they want any food, though - the Crows and Jackdaws, and increasing numbers of Magpies, always seem to be the first to spot anything that's put out and it quickly disappears.

It would be good to hear about any interesting sightings of birds or mammals in and around Embleton and Christon Bank that we could publish in future editions of the WT.

**Redwing**



**Fieldfare**



**Waxwing**

- Q. Why do birds fly south for the winter?  
A. Because it's too far to walk.



### *Stargazing along the Northumberland Coast*

Six fabulous stargazing events have been organised by the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership and Northumberland Astronomical Society (NASTRO). Two took place in November and December, the other four will take place over the next three months. STARGAZERS will have the opportunity to observe the night sky at fantastic venues along the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with expert guidance and assistance from NASTRO.

Wednesday 21st January - Warkworth Golf Course

Monday 2nd February - Lindisfarne Castle

Friday 13th February - Howick Village Hall

Saturday 14th March - Hunting Hall, Lowick

Each event will run from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The evening will feature an indoor guided tour of the Solar System, a Laser guided tour of the night sky, a series of other short talks and, weather permitting, be followed by an opportunity to observe the stars using a variety of telescopes.

Refreshments will be available and the events are suitable for all ages but strictly no dogs allowed. Please bring suitable warm clothing and a torch.

All events are free but booking is essential as spaces are limited - please follow the link on the Northumberland Coast AONB homepage to book your places - <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=6869>.

The events are part of the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership's objective to raise awareness of the importance of the area's dark skies. The overall purpose of the AONB is to conserve and enhance its wonderful natural and cultural heritage. The night sky has been recognised as an important element of the experience of that heritage. Increasing light pollution, even in rural Northumberland, jeopardises the dark sky quality. The exceptional quality of the dark skies in Northumberland was recently recognised with the awarding of 'Gold Tier Status' Dark Sky Reserve.

"Dark skies are incredibly precious" said Jessica Turner of the AONB Partnership, "The opportunity to experience the wonder of the stunning dark skies is available to all in and around the AONB. The AONB Partnership is keen to raise awareness of the night sky, and the importance of reducing light pollution. It is hoped that this series of events will highlight the treasure that is above us and go some way to ensuring its long term protection".

Binoculars and telescopes will be available, but participants are invited to bring own. The experts from NASTRO will on hand to provide advice and are able to cater for all levels of expertise and knowledge. Ian Glendinning from NASTRO said "NASTRO aims to promote astronomy and science education in the community and has an active outreach programme. We are really looking forward to these events along the coast, meeting new stargazers and conversing with experienced astronomers alike."

For further information please contact Jessica Turner on 01670 622648 or email - [Jessica.turner@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.turner@northumberland.gov.uk)



### NCC Winter Alerts on Phone

Northumberland County Council invites all members of the public to join them on Twitter or Facebook where you will find information on a variety of events, including alerts for the coming winter.

The service includes information on:-

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| School closures                  | Severe weather warnings |
| Winter service information       | Job vacancies           |
| Service disruptions and closures | Local events            |
| Council news                     |                         |

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.....

100 Club Winners

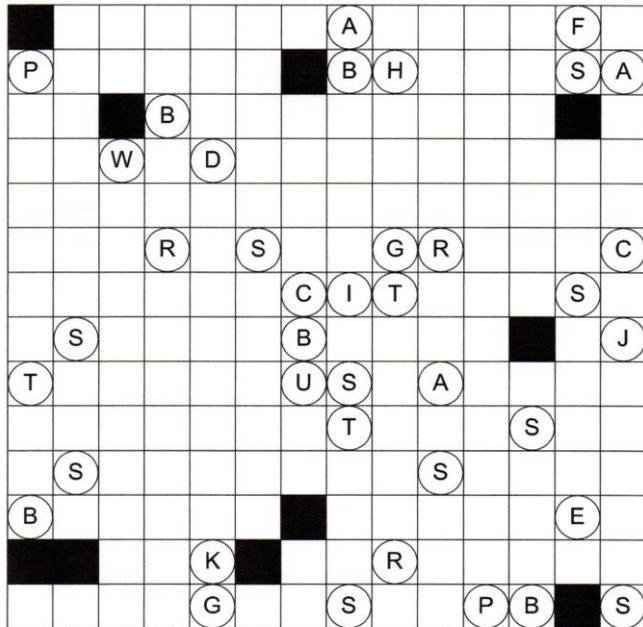
November	£40 Pat Brand	No. 68
	£20 Barbara Thornton	No. 103

## School News

A huge well done to all the children at Embleton First School who raised a fantastic **£69.72** for Water Aid. This money will help to transform lives by improving access to safe water, improving hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. Thank you to everyone in the community that helped to support our fundraising appeal.

## Reverse Word Puzzle

**Solution on  
Page 17.**



Arching  
Argue  
Aspect  
Bigamist  
Blare  
Bound  
Brutes  
Bulbs  
Bursts  
Chars  
Classy  
Dulls

Elder  
Fatty  
Ghost  
Gibes  
Halts  
Installs  
Jesters  
Knelt  
Parsing  
Piano  
Plumbs  
Rarest

Rebuke  
Regaling  
Scalded  
Scouts  
Scream  
Seared  
Shield  
Shroud  
Slaved  
Sleeve  
Slothful  
Smash

Stable  
Staving  
Stuff  
Tangs  
Tidal  
Tutorial  
Upends  
Wished

### Snippet

#### Sign seen outside a secondhand shop

"We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?"

#### Recipe for Cranachan or Cream Crowdie

Cranachan is now often served as a pudding at Burns Suppers but was traditionally made at harvest time or on festive occasions and is usually served chilled but it can be frozen.

40mls double cream

2 rounded tablespoons oatmeal (or porridge oats)

2 tablespoons of runny honey

3 tablespoons of whisky

200gms raspberries - fresh are best but frozen work quite well.

Four ramekins or wine glasses

Spread the oatmeal on a baking tray under a moderate grill and toast until it smells nutty and begins to brown. Leave to cool. Whip the cream, add the honey and whisky and stir in the cooled oatmeal. Keep a few of the best raspberries for decoration. Break up the others with a fork and place a spoonful in the bottom of each glass. Fold the rest gently into the cream mixture and pile this into the glasses. Top with the reserved raspberries.

#### Quick and easy Shortbread

250gms plain flour

75gms corn flour

250gms unsalted butter

100gms caster sugar

Heat the oven to 150C

Melt the butter. Stir in the dry ingredients. Knead gently and push the dough into a small baking tin so that it is about 1cm thick. Prick with a fork and bake for about 15 minutes, until slightly brown.

# Parish Clerk

## Required for Craster and Dunstan Parish Council

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Approximately 25 – 30 hrs work involved per meeting, the majority of which can be done at home. 10 monthly meetings per year

Travelling expenses to attend Parish Council meetings.

For further details and application form e-mail

[parishcouncil@crastercommunity.org](mailto:parishcouncil@crastercommunity.org)

or contact Chairman tel: 01665 – 576 859

### Embleton Carpet Bowls

*John Wallis*

Since the last issue of the Whinstone Times we have played six matches.

Rennington thrashed us, even though we were the home team, by 71 shots to 29. However we did manage to win against Denwick by 45 shots to 34, against Longframlington by 50 shots to 33, also beating Glanton by the same amount. The club lost two very close matches, the first against Warkworth by 44 shots to 42 and against Lesbury by 45 shots to 43.

The away match against Longhoughton had to be cancelled due to us not being able to field enough players.

Our first internal competition, the singles, was won by John Wallis with Eddie Williams as runner up.

The Club members wish all the readers of the Whinstone Times a very Happy, Healthy 2015.

Evacuation and being a refugee - Part 3

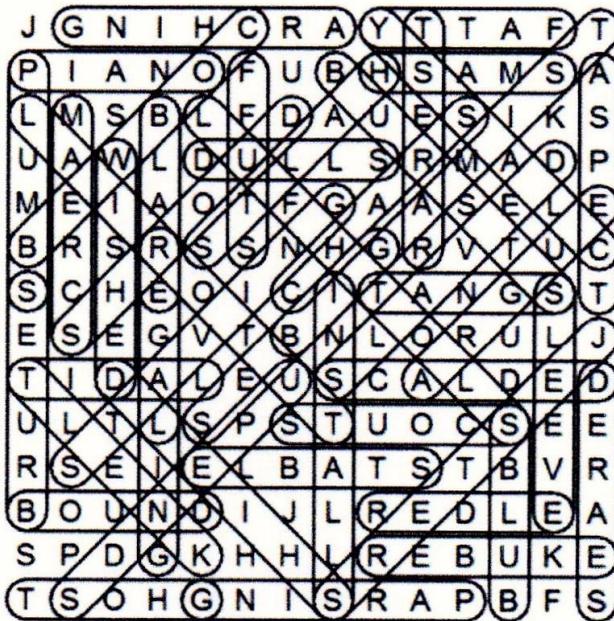
Whilst my Dad was away he sent me a little doll for Christmas. It had taken nine months and nine days to get to me. I had to go to hospital to have my appendix out and I wrapped it up in a serviette to look after it and it lost its leg. The legs were just pinned through with a bit of elastic, a celluloid doll. Oh I cried my heart out. Anyway they mended it so that was ok. It was a new doll. I treasured it. I can picture it now.

In 1947 my Dad was still a prisoner of war in Italy. My Mum had a letter now and again. Dad had been shot in the leg and he was in a military hospital. I remember the night my Dad came back. He knocked on the window and he walked through that door. He had a moustache and my Mother would not kiss him. She just didn't like it. He had been eight years away. I can't remember really if it was a great occasion. My Dad was home and that was that. He was searching for work and the local people helped. He was a cook, baker, confectioner and he got a job in a quarry where they blasted the stone. He got all these big ulcers, the size of a cup, pussing away, because of all his hard work and the poor food during the war. I used to have to take him his dinner every day at 12 o'clock. We had these *essentrager*, containers all in one with a lid on top and a fork on the side. I had to walk quite a bit through the woods and I liked doing that. All we could afford was mushrooms we collected in the summer and dried. So Dad's dinner was minced mushrooms and gravy and mashed potato. The men who were working in the quarry killed their pig every January and had these big fat sandwiches you could hardly get into your mouth. Now and again they pushed one along for my Dad. That didn't do him any good either, all that fat, and he had these ulcers.

We all lived in one room until the people from Hamburg went back and we got the middle flat with two bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen and bathroom. We learned to knit at school and for Christmas I was making a secret present for my Mother, a knitted *lappen* - like a face cloth. I went into the farmer's kitchen and sat beside the fire to make it. Herr Loges used to kid me in German, "is it not yet finished"?! He was always kidding me, he was always nice. I was already over here when he died. My Mam lived in that farmhouse till she was eighty nine, until she died.

About seven years ago we went back to Poland and a friend who had lived opposite us asked us to take a photo of the street. The son of the Polish family who took the house off us is still in it. My brother went back and they were invited in for a cup of tea. That generation didn't know anything about it so they were very welcoming. I just sat outside, I could not go in. I associated them with what they've done to us. If somebody came in here now and said "you've got five minutes to get out", you would feel the same wouldn't you?

Solution to Reverse Word Search on Page 13



- Q. What happens if you eat the Christmas tree decorations?  
 A. You get tinsel-itus!

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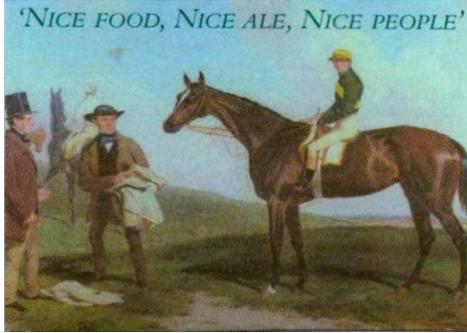
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