

STOKE ASH & THWAITE



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

April & May
Newsletter
2021

GOOD MORNING!

BREAKFAST SERVED
UNTIL 11.30am
7 DAYS A WEEK



Buffet Selection **£4.25**

Unlimited Tea, Coffee and Toast to your table... then help yourself to any buffet items for no extra charge
(Add this on to any cooked breakfast)

Big Breakfast **£6.50**

Two Fried Eggs, two rashers of Bacon, Sausage, Mushrooms, Tomato, Baked Beans, Hash Browns, Fried Bread

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Code: whitehorse

Smoked Mackerel **£4.45**
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Tomato Juice **£1.95**

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The copy deadline for ALL issues this year will be the 10th of alternative months and for advertisers the 12th

This edition of the newsletter has been produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that they may be corrected.

Please note that the views expressed in readers letters are not necessarily those of the editors. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication; however we reserve the right to include, edit or omit letters as we think appropriate.

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Editors Ramblings



Another month or two pass's by and we're still confined to the lockup.

Maybe the light has been re-lit at the tunnel end?

For a lot of us being out of town means relying on friends or others to get us through these trying times.

Those who have supplied me with stories or other items have dried up so I'm having to dig through the computer looking for odds that I've not used or maybe I have but forgotten about.

So our front page picture gives me hope? I'm in NO position to say when the village hall will reopen or the various clubs can return BUT it may be sooner than we think Boris's words sort of point us towards late May or in June ?

Now as you know an Oil cartel is still around for our villages please contact Roger Kember - see Details on page.

Local Take Away meals continue with the White Horse, or travel a short distance to Thorndon, Thornham or Thwaite. Like all others watch for posters or notices on various internet sites.

Interested in model railways then e-mail me for more details (Stowmarket M R Club)

Stoke Ash lottery continues - please see Sheila at our post office as there is always room for more subscribers.



All Saints Church Stoke Ash with Thwaite

WORSHIP

Please refer to the village and church notice boards for details of all services in the church and online.

(This is all subject to change depending on Government guidelines)

If anyone wishes to take part in an online church service you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southhartismerechurch> or at rev.julialall@gmail.com Phone: 01379 678064

BOOKS

Books are always on sale at All Saints Church in the porch, which is always open.

JUMBLE SALE

If anyone has any jumble to donate please drop it off in the church porch which is always open.

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

COVID VACCINATION UPDATE

The link below is useful for patients to access up to date vaccination information.

The Suffolk and North East Essex ICS runs a website - www.sneevaccine.org.uk - which aims to offer residents a single, comprehensive and accurate source of information about Covid-19 and vaccinations.

This website is updated regularly and contain the very latest information on the ongoing vaccination programme in order to give people clarity.

Stoke Ash Village Sign

In December 2019, a number of villagers asked for a village sign to be sourced for Stoke Ash village on the Parish Council Christmas tree wish list.

A competition was held within the village for the design of a suitable sign at the beginning of January 2020. There were 8 designs submitted, which were considered by the Parish councillors at a Parish Council meeting. Steve Damant was declared the winner.

The winning design was manufactured by a Suffolk company and is shown below. A metal plate incorporated in the build of the base structure was also included. The sign was powder coat painted. A suitable oak post has been sourced. The build of a brick support structure remains to be done, now that the sign and post have been erected.



Tony, Mark & Flint in Prayer



STOKE ASH VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY WINNERS

Winners since last publication were:-

Jan 9th	Roll Over	
Jan 16th	L.Smith	£50
Jan 23rd	Roll Over	
Jan 30th	M.Humphrey	£50
Feb 6th	C.Damant	£25
Feb 13th	Roll Over	
Feb 20th	B.Eldridge	£50
Feb 27th	M.Woodhouse	£25

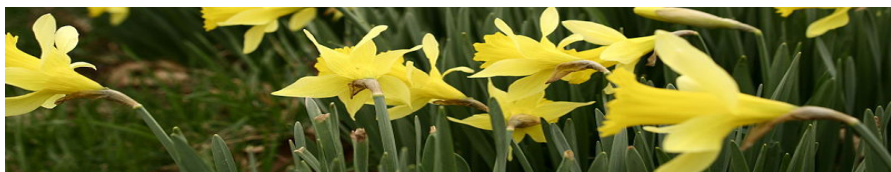
Notes;- The Village Hall is still closed due to COVID.

THE WALNUT TREE

Vegetarian & Vegan Restaurant Pub

They are doing a selection of takeaways - please call them

STOKE ASH GARDENING CLUB



Sorry to say Stoke Ash Village Hall is still closed. Bob has produced a temporary programme for 2021, unfortunately still cancelling Speakers as time passes. The Covid restrictions.earliest date we have had for the Hall to be fully open is May 17th. unless the date is revised.

We need to have an AGM, when possible, to decide on the Club's future.

This is on hold until the Hall is opened again Hopefully June or July we will advertise the date as soon as we can.

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Why BC and AD?

Why 2021 and why AD? The Julian calendar, as it is known, was introduced by Julius Caesar which is what our calendar years are based on, with an adaption back in 1582 to the Gregorian calendar. BC stands for 'Before Christ' and AD stands for 'Anno Domini' which is Latin for 'in the year of the Lord'. This was all set by - and important to - the time of Easter.

This reminds us all at a point of history at Easter time that Jesus Christ lived, died and rose again. It's a constant reminder to me of the fact of history that Jesus was this focal point that had been set across the world.

When we think of Easter we think of 'New Life'. We love the chocolate eggs reminding us of that and also the time of lambing and the new life and growth in the countryside where we live.

Do you ever watch the programme on the television, 'Going Undercover at My Company'? There is an English version and of course there is an American version.

The point of the whole exercise is for the CEO or high ranking official in the company to disguise themselves and then work alongside the people on the shop floor. At the end of the week or fortnight they would then return to their office in the city and then arrange for the people they had worked alongside to be invited for an interview with them at the head office. I have seen this work both ways: that the worker was hard working and an asset to the company but had not been recognized as such and on other occasions others were fiddling their hours and sometimes the products that they were handling and not being an asset to the company or the people they were working alongside. Most of the time the interview at the head office becomes very emotional as problems are discussed in the employee's home life and the battles that they have had to contend with, looking after children or ill parents whilst holding down a job and performing to the best of their ability.

I really do see in this the story I read in the Bible of a God who loves His creation and was willing to send His high ranking official to live alongside His creation so that He fully understands what we go through (Hebrews 4:15) and that high ranking official being willing to put Himself on the line to save those that He lived alongside. He was disguised to the extent that His birth was in a poor family, he was not brought up in a royal family but worked alongside the poor and sick. He gave of Himself for others and at the end died in the place of the guilty.

Why would He do this? First of all, it is important for us to understand that Jesus did not do this for complete strangers. The Bible tells us that God knows every one of us before we are even conceived - or conceived of! His desire for us is that we achieve what we might term 'our potential'. He knows what we should and could be and it is when we walk securely with Him, recognising Him as our Lord and Saviour that we find our true potential and our true worth. The fact that Jesus Christ came to earth

with this specific mission, to live amongst us and experience things in exactly the same ways as we do (in His case without sin) and then be sacrificed on our behalf to redeem us from the consequences of our sins really shows how much He loves us and wants us to know our true worth.

At rock bottom, this is all about God's desire for us to have a relationship with Him. When Jesus died and rose again at the very first Easter, it was to enable all who wish to have that relationship to be able to do so. It is clearly explained in the gospels and never more clearly than in the Gospel of John in the New Testament in John, chapter 3, verse 16, where it tells us that, 'For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' That 'everlasting life' is not some magical formula to preserve this life indefinitely but for us to know that, not only is there a new and better life (what we might call a 'fresh start') available in the here and now when we are truly sorry for our sins and ask Him to come into our life, but also the reward of an eternal life with Him, when we finish our time here on earth.

His name was Jesus and that is what Easter is all about. Read up on His-story and find out what a Saviour He is for each one of us. How can you make His story a part of your story? Go somewhere quiet where you can be on your own and ask Him. Ask God to reveal Himself to you. Sincerely, tell Him that you are sorry for the wrong things you have done and ask for His forgiveness and ask Him into your life. Trust Him for your future...

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Missed Opportunities?

In the mid sixties, the anti tank platoon of the York and Lancaster regiment had one live shell left towards the end of the training season. This was being kept for an armoured vehicle target which would be available during the regimental exercises in the Libyan desert at the end of the year.

Once set up in Libya, the REME soldiers attached to the regiment were tasked with towing a Humber Armoured car into the desert. There it was to be used in an exhibition of the accuracy and effects of a 120mm shell at a distance of a few hundred yards. As a morale booster, and a demonstration of the damage the anti tank weapon could inflict, it was much anticipated and discussed.

When the Humber was examined in the workshop prior to departure, it was in surprisingly good condition for an obsolete vehicle. It had new tyres, batteries, and the engine and gearboxes were good. (This was before the need for such vehicles was recognised for the troubles in Northern Ireland.)

Somehow, an Arab had found out that the vehicle was going to be destroyed, and surreptitiously offered a large sum of money for the wheels and tyres.

After some discussion, it was agreed that this would be acceptable if the money went into the workshop funds. The Humber would be taken deep into the desert to the firing range, placed in position, and then the wheels would be removed and returned to base.

However, when the mechanics started to remove the wheels at the range, the anti tank platoon officer demanded to know what was going on. This was explained, with the offer to share the ill gotten gains between the workshop and platoon funds. He declined, and suggested that the target would be substantially reduced in size.

In the old days, before laser sights and electronic assistance, targets were aligned by using a ranging machine gun, which was matched to the main anti tank weapon. Once the machine gun rounds could be seen hitting the target, the main weapon could be fired with a high degree of accuracy.

So, from a suitable distance, the mechanics watched the demonstration with interest. After all, it is seldom one gets the chance to see such an exercise.

One could actually see the trajectory of the shell, and having watched the ranging machine gun engaging the target, they expected the anti tank shell to destroy the Humber in a shattering explosion.

Unfortunately, the doors had been left open, and the shell was seen to pass through the door apertures, and explode some distance beyond.

It was not only the target opportunity which was missed, but the financial opportunity for the two unit funds, and no doubt the profit expectations of the Arab!

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Hot off the Press, Hi Vis jackets

are now available for dog walkers in Stoke Ash and Thwaite.

There is a limited number and this is being run as a pilot scheme in our villages to make people aware of the dangers of speed and to make our walkers more visible.

Jackets are available from

Cllr Pulham 07850 385914 and Cllr Leggett 07745 365583



Arthritis Action Group Events for April and May

30/03/2021 -
Norfolk & Suffolk Online Group (Launch) - 2pm

09/04/2021 -
Coffee morning (open to all areas) - 10:30am

30/04/2021 -
Coffee morning (open to all areas) - 10:30am

11/05/2021 -
Norfolk & Suffolk Online group - 2pm

28/05/2021 -
Coffee morning (open to all areas) - 10:30am

Marc Williams
Area Co-ordinator
Direct Line: 020 3781 9233
Mobile: 07562 430886
T: 020 3781 7120
W: www.arthritisACTION.org.uk

REGISTER BY EMAILING
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Stoke Ash & Thwaite Newsletter Advertising Rates

The following rates are effective
from 1st October 2020

per annum (6 issues)

Full Page . . . £70

Half Page . . . £45

Quarter Page . . . £30

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first renewal and thereafter

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Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council – report on meeting held 18 February 2021

There were a number of ‘Thank You’s’ to record at the meeting:

Neighbourhood Watch – £130 had been received from County Cllr Andrew Stringer’s highway locality budget to cover the cost of the signs.

Four 350ltr Grit Bins – £503 had been received from County Cllr Andrew Stringer’s highway locality budget to cover the cost of the 4 larger bins.

High Viz Vests – £320 had been received from County Cllr Andrew Stringer’s locality budget to cover the cost of 20 high viz vest.

Stoke Ash Village Sign - £650 had been received from District Cllr David Burn’s locality budget towards the cost of the sign.

A140 footpaths near Stoke Ash White Horse – Mr Shane Aldridge had cleared the overgrowth from the footpaths, this was much appreciated.

Snow – Mr Greg Aldridge had cleared village roads of snow during the February snowfall, this had been much appreciated.

Christmas Sing-along 2020 – to Cllr Geoffrey Tancred for being the driving force behind the event and to Cllrs Chris and Dick Maisey , Gordon Leggett and Tony Pulham and all other volunteers contributing to the event.

Thwaite Lottery – to Cllrs Chris and Dick Maisey for running the lottery club.

Members recorded their grateful thanks to all the above.

Parish Council Vacancy – There is one vacancy waiting to be filled in Stoke Ash. The Parish Council would be pleased to hear from any Stoke Ash parishioner, 18 years and over, who may be interested. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday evening of the month, currently via Zoom. Please do speak to a councillor or contact the clerk if interested.

Annual Parish Meetings – these were cancelled last year due to lockdown. Pending clarification from the local council governing body on live face to face meetings as we come out of lockdown, provisional dates have been set for the parish meetings: Stoke Ash – Thursday 20 May 2020 and Thwaite Thursday 27 May 2020 at 7.30pm. **Please note these dates may be subject to change or cancellation following any further Government guidance on the holding of live meetings. Dates will be confirmed or re-scheduled and published on Parish Notice Boards and the Website.**

High Viz Vests - details as to how these will be made available for parishioners who are regular walkers in both villages following the next parish council meeting.

Reports were received on concerns raised over the use of holiday cottages in Stoke Ash and whether lockdown restrictions were being broken and the provision of a fence on the field boundary of Stoke Ash village hall playing field funded from Cil monies.

Litter Picking – the Spring annual litter pick organized by the parish council has had to be cancelled this year due to lockdown. Some parishioners and families have however carried out their own litter pick during their exercise walks. Litter pick equipment is available should any parishioner wish to make use of it. The equipment is held at Stoke Ash Village Hall. Please contact a Village Hall Committee Member should you wish to use it.

Date of next Parish Council video meetings: Thursday 18 March 2021 and Thursday 15 April 2021 both at 7.30pm

Community Lunch Update

To all those who came to the Community meal that was held in the Baptist Church Hall before the crisis, we trust you are all keeping well? We have missed seeing you all for a good chat and some nice food. Rest assured, as soon as we get over these problems with the Covid 19 virus we will arrange more meals and get together.
Stay safe and stay well!

Thwaite 50 Lottery

Subscription is by membership, which is either £5 a month or £60 per year, join any time. (We now have 28 members)
Prizes every month of £25, £20 and £15. We end the year with a Grand Christmas Draw in November.

For more details: Christine Maisey 01449766286

Easter Quacker News

Between 9 and 12 o'clock on the morning of Saturday 3 April 2021, Daphne Duck will have laid eggs on a short trip around Stoke Ash, regardless of the weather. Being a clever duck, she has developed some special packaging to keep them dry, and also to encourage everybody to take only one bag per family!

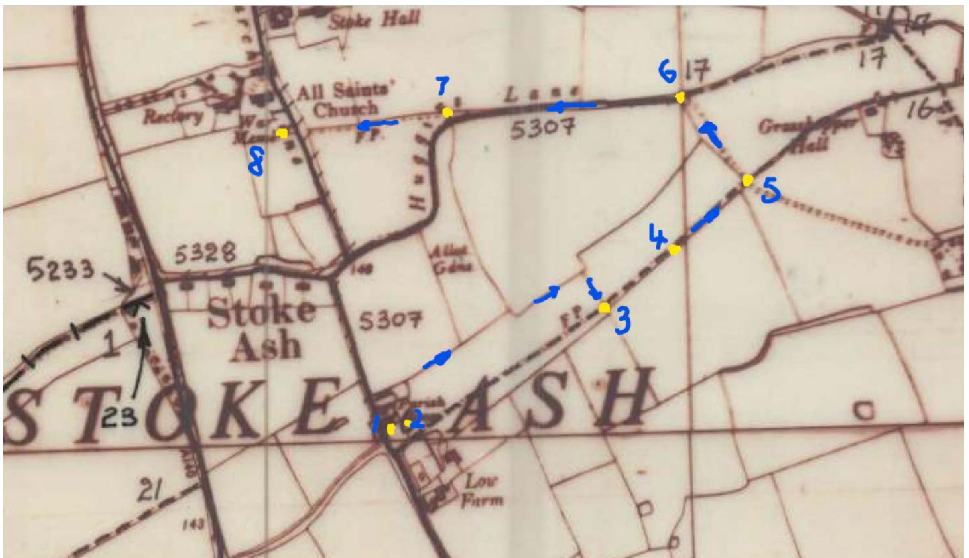
She is cleverer than the average duck and has even provided a map to show whereabouts she has laid the eggs. Daphne duck is a little vain, and would love to see any photos of your journey, which could go into the village publications.

Your personal copy of the map is below. Daphne's route will be marked with Posters. A prize will also be given for the best Easter bonnet, the best painted hard boiled egg, and the most correct answers to Daphne's quiz.

Post the photo of you wearing your bonnet at any of the 'Quacker' walk posters, on the village Stoke Ash and Thwaite community facebook page. Daphne Duck's committee will decide the winners.

On the afternoon of Saturday 3 April, Daphne Duck will appear with her consorts, in Stoke Ash with an Easter egg platter for each household.

Your Parish Council wishes you a very happy Easter, and release soon from the bondage of Covid!



Neighbourhood Watch

BEWARE BOGUS CALLERS

Dognapping is a prevalent crime and last year we had 2 men in a white van going from house-to-house taking 'orders' for fresh fish to be delivered by them at a later date. A sharp eyed resident saw that where the house had a dog, these men marked the gatepost or wall. The suspicion was that they would return to steal the dogs. Fortunately, this good neighbour noted the registration mark of their van and they were stopped by police and reported for driving without insurance. Needless to say, none of our dogs were stolen and no fish were delivered.

The latest scam is for the dognappers to call at houses posing as RSPCA or police and asking to check your dog. If anyone falls for this and brings out their dog, the bogus officials run off with it, sometimes assaulting the owner.

RSPCA inspectors and the police would be in uniform but they are not conducting any such survey of dogs anyway.

All such officials and utilities workers carry photo ID with their name and PIN number which they will either show you when they call or produce on request.

If you have any doubts, ask them to make an appointment by official letter and come back later.

If they tell you it's an emergency (say, a gas or water leak) and you have any doubts, shut the door and go upstairs to see if there is a properly marked van in the street. You can also call the Emergency Helpline of the utility. These are on the rear page of the Newsletter.

We now have official Neighbourhood Watch window stickers and stickers stating 'No cold calling'. **You can get these free from our co-ordinators: Val Lane (home: 01379 678568, mob: 07511683472) and Roger Kember (home: 01449 768142, mob: 07940 018599).**

Let's stay safe and look after ourselves and each other.

Stoke Ash Village Hall Lottery

£1 per week with weekly prize money of £25
based on the correct Saturday Bonus Ball.

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Parish Report – March 2021

Councillor

Andrew Stringer (Upper Gipping)

'Robin'
Blacksmith Road
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IP14 4QN

07545423842

andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council Budget

The Suffolk County Council Budget was voted through Full Council on February 11th. This year's budget is based on a 12-month financial settlement from government, rather than the 3 or 4 year agreement which is usually offered. Key points include:

- A council tax rise of 3.99% (1.99% basic council tax and 2% Social Care Precept), representing an increase of £53.55 for a Band D property, from £1,343.61 in 2020-21 to £1,397.16 in 2021-22.
- A council tax shortfall of £7.9m less than expected, to be met by using reserves.
- Planned spending is £597.9m, 7.4% more than 2021-21.
- £15.3m of spending to address ongoing COVID-19 costs.
- No proposed reductions in council services or personnel.

LDGI Group Budget Amendment and Group Leader's Speech

The LDGI Group submitted a Budget Amendment to Full Council on February 11th alongside the administration's Budget. The amendment would have authorised the use of the full 3% social care precept to avoid impacting SCC's reserves and generate an extra £3.452m for social care at a cost of only £13.41 per year to a Band D household. The extra income would have provided funding for a wider service offer for Suffolk residents, including a new officer for the flooding team to unlock more government funding, and the re-enablement of concessionary bus passes on community transport. The amendment was unfortunately not passed.

Suffolk & Norfolk County Council submit joint bid for £6m flood funding

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have submitted a joint bid to the £200 fund for Flood and Coastal Resilience, requesting £6m to invest in flood protection schemes across both counties. The proposed projects would also capture water for reuse. If the bid is successful town and parish councils will be encouraged to get involved through measures like permeable paving, water butts and 'rain gardens' that can cope with occasional flooding. These projects would be in place by 2027 if the bid is approved.

Government's last-minute approach to local authority grants

Suffolk County Council will receive £27m for highways repairs, maintenance and drainage in 2021-22, a reduction in from £31m the previous year. This has necessitated the use of £2m of reserves to top up the grant. In the view of my Group, these cuts in Government funding make it impossible to plan long-term for road maintenance and repair. Due to the uncertainty as to whether this grant would materialise at all, some vital work has already been postponed.

"It's a bit like someone telling you that they're going to punch you twice in the face and then expecting you to be grateful if they only punch you once."

LDGI Group submits response to Post-16 Travel Policy consultation

The LDGI Group has submitted a joint response to Suffolk County Council's consultation on the Post-16 Transport Policy, which manages transport to schools and education for young people after the age of 16. The LDGI Group's views included:

- Support for the expansion of the post-16 travel eligibility criteria for sixth form students and adult learners aged 25 and under with EHC plans, reflecting the change in age range for compulsory school attendance.
- Support for keeping prices lower for SEND students.
- Use of buses and trains for school transport must be supported. The needs of students and the numbers currently forced to use taxis or private cars to reach their schools must be taken into account when considering public transport. Students should be steered towards buses first, and the school transport service should support our local bus network in maintaining services to rural areas.
- The Travel Training Scheme must be better funded, so that it can expand and promote its services.

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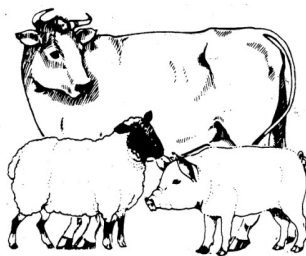
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Flower Meanings

March's flower choice is

The Snowdrop - The snowdrop flower has enjoyed a rich and varied history that includes several legends about how the flower came to be.

Garden of Eden: According to legend, Eve was distraught after God cast her out of the Garden of Eden. God sent forth continuous snow and the earth was cold and barren. As Eve sat weeping, an angel appeared to comfort her. The angel caught a snowflake and breathed upon it. The snowflake fluttered to the earth and gave birth to the snowdrop. This delicate bloom came to symbolise hope and rebirth.



German Legend: When God created snow, he gave it the task of visiting the flowers of the earth to gather colours. All the flowers refused, until the snow visited the gentle snowdrop. Seeing that the snowdrop was a kind and generous soul, the snow decided to make a deal. In exchange for her colour, the snow agreed to allow the snowdrop to bloom first every spring. The delicate snowdrop agreed and cheerfully blooms amid the snow each spring.

Moldovan Legend: According to Moldovan legend, a fight between the Winter Witch and Lady Spring gave birth to the snowdrop. One year, the Winter Witch decided that she would not give up her reign of the earth when Lady Spring arrived. During the ensuing battle, Lady Spring pricked her finger and a drop of her blood fell to the earth. The blood drop melted the snow and up sprung a tiny snowdrop, a sign that Lady Spring had won the battle with the Winter Witch.

Romanian Legend: According to this legend, each year the sun took on the form of a young girl as it returned to warm the land in the spring. One year, Winter refused to let go of his stronghold on the earth and took the young girl hostage. A Hero soon appeared to rescue his love from the grips of winter. A battle ensued, and the girl was set free, but not before Hero was wounded. As the sun began to rise into the sky, Hero fell to the ground and drops of his blood stained the earth. Tiny snowdrops burst forth in celebration of the return of spring. Romanians continue to honour the snowdrop as a symbol of the return of spring.

Victorian Customs: Not all cultures view the snowdrop as a symbol of hope and rebirth. For the Victorians, the snowdrop represented death and even considered it bad luck to bring snowdrops inside the home. The sight of a single snowdrop bloom was considered an omen of death!!

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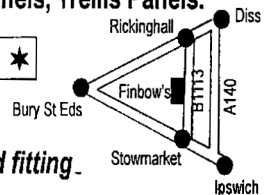
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