

OLD BOLINGBROKE WITH HAREBY PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER March 2026

Hi everyone, welcome to the seventh edition of our village Newsletter bringing you news from the Council as well as highlights from village life and the all important events diary. Edited by Caroline Wills-Wright and very generously printed by OPWALL (Operation Wallacea).

Photo acknowledgements – Caroline Wills-Wright and Isobel Godsell.



SPRING IS SPRINGING, what a relief to see the daffodils!

The sight of the daffodils with the church and castle beyond lifts everyone's spirits each spring. Our village daffodils even featured on Look North! What a relief after such a damp start to the year. Please keep photos coming as we'll gladly share them on here, and we are thinking of doing a set of village postcards ready for Christmas.

OB GREEN REPORT

Just a few updates and thank yous this time. The Rose Garden roses were pruned and some more narcissus bulbs planted which will come through for next year. Weeding will soon be the priority as the weather warms up. In the Field we tidied up the tree guards and stakes. From now on the 'new' hedge plants need a lot of attention in some areas where the protective spirals have broken, weeds taken over and there seem to be quite a few gaps. Some tidying in the Woodland Area is also needed. Thanks to volunteers fencing has been repaired and strengthened and the benches are being maintained. The new trees are now pretty well established and you may remember that when they first went in we spoke about people having a Memorial Tree. These would need a bigger and more sturdy guard than the plastic ones so we are looking into costs. If anyone has any suggestions please say. Some planters still need emptying. We will be ordering plants from Westholme in April and have been advised to plant them during May. We're now sticking to a late Spring/ Summer/early Autumn show in most of the planters.



Thanks go to all who help, not only with all the work above but all around the villages. We don't have much ELDC support with general 'house-keeping jobs' so keeping signs clean and verges tidy, litter picking and general tidying falls on all of us who have some time to help out. We already have quite a lot of secret helpers! If anyone new is looking to volunteer and is not sure where to start, please contact me. Our next volunteer days will be 11th (Rose Garden) and 18th April (Field), 10am - 12pm but anytime will do!

Many thanks, Isobel (via Facebook Messenger, 07828 703715 or 01790 763391.)

Great News! The Parkinsons fundraiser quiz raised a grand total of £710! Huge thanks to all involved. It was a fantastic night, no doubt not the last time we do this.

Friends of Bolingbroke Castle are looking for a Treasurer – if you'd like to know more, contact friendsofbolingbrokecastle@gmail.com, or call Caroline on 01790763550

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH



A Talk about John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford in Old Bolingbroke at St Peter and St Paul's Church.

Join us in person for an engaging chat about the fascinating lives of John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford given by historian Sharon Bennett Connolly.

Sharon Bennett Connolly is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and best-selling author of 8 historical non-fiction books. As well as writing the popular history blog, www.historytheinterestingbits.com Sharon co-hosts the podcast *A Slice of Medieval*, alongside historical novelist Derek Birks. Sharon is a feature writer for *All About History*, *Tudor Places* and *Living Medieval* magazines and her radio and TV work includes the BBC and Australian Television's *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Whether you're a history buff or just curious, this talk is sure to entertain and enlighten. Don't miss out on this chance to explore a unique chapter of history up close!

Saturday, June 13th - 7:30 -9:30pm Doors open at 7pm.

Location - St Peter and St Paul's Church, Church Lane, Old Bolingbroke, PE23 4HH

Tickets £8 - Obtainable via **Eventbrite** – a link to the booking site can be found on the Church website – search google: otdbolingbroke.church.

Proceeds in support of St Peter and St Paul's Church.

As always, there is something for everyone at the church this Easter, culminating with the Easter Egg Hunt, and cake!

Details of services are in the diary of events.

This promises to be such an interesting talk about another crucial aspect of village history.

Did you know? You can contribute to the New Life Centre Food Bank by leaving donations at the back of the church by the font? Toiletries and nonperishable foods all gratefully received.

COUNCIL NEWS

The council met most recently in the village hall on Thursday 19 th March. As always, once ratified at the next meeting, the minutes will be placed on our website. <https://old-bolingbroke.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>



(COUNCIL NEWS CONT'D)

Precept increase

The precept for Old Bolingbroke with Hareby has remained at £11,424 for the last four years, but with rising costs and an eye on the forecast costs for 2026/27, the Parish Council have had to raise the precept to £13,424. This is an increase of £2,000 or 17.5%, which equates roughly to an annual increase of 3.5% for each of the last 5 years. Please be assured that the PC continues to monitor costs closely against the budget and ensure maximum value for the village from all expenditure. In terms of the Council Tax per household, this translates to an increase of 12.68% on a Band E property which rises from £99.73 to £112.38 per year. Only just over £1 per month.

Annual Parish Meeting 21 st May at 6:30 pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm

This is your chance to publicly ask the Council (at the 7pm meeting) about issues that concern or interest you. Maybe even ask how you could become a councillor! Various organisations are invited to talk at the 6:30 meeting, including Heritage Trust Lincolnshire who are coming to explain what is planned for the field donated to them by Maurice and Sylvia Bradbury. (for those of you who don't know, this is next to the castle land on Hagnaby Road, with a grassy bridge across to it).

Hagnaby Rd ditch

Those of you who are concerned about the worrying deterioration of the road side of the ditch will like to know that LCC are very much on the case having done at least two detailed site visits and have listened closely to the concerns we have raised. We will keep you informed on what is planned. Perhaps this is something you could ask about at the annual meeting.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd April 3pm	Good Friday Reflections in the Church led by a member of the Clergy with Organist - Steve Jones.
6 th April 2-4pm	Cream Teas and Easter Egg Hunt in the Church
17 th May 10am	Bedding Plant Sale at the Village Hall
21 st May 6:30pm	Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall
21 st May 7pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall
22 nd May 7pm	Quiz Night at the Village Hall
7 th June 11am	Pet Service at the Church
13th June 7 for 7.30pm	John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford History Talk in the Church
20 th June 7pm	Chine/Ham supper at the Village Hall
12 th July 2-5pm	Church Garden Fete at 'The Laurels'
1 st August 7pm	Coningsby Military Wives Choir in the Church
August – date TBC	Barbecue

USEFUL CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR BOOKINGS:

For Church events - Steve -763084 or bolingbroke.church@gmail.com

For events/bookings at Ramsden Village Hall – Pam Powell – 763363 pam.j.powell@gmail.com

For Castle events friendsofbolingbrokecastle@gmail.com

This Newsletter looks so much better in colour, which is what you get when we email it to those who have signed up to receive it electronically. If you would like to sign up, please email me at chippycaro@hotmail.com – I'll be happy to send you this one too.