



BERKHAMSTED CASTLE TRUST

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity (England & Wales) No. 1176286

Update for Berkhamsted Town Council

25th April 2022 from Peter Matthews, Trustee

This is the current status of the work undertaken by Berkhamsted Castle Trust (BCT). This update is to inform the town council of BCT activities and plans regarding Berkhamsted Castle.

After the clocks changed to British Summer Time the Castle opening hours have changed to summer opening from 1000 to 1800 daily and the milder weather has seen an increasing attendance with many picnics and children's football games. Volunteers have been preparing for. At Easter we moved to manning the visitors room and putting out the information panels at weekends. These are tended by the Castle Volunteers. Training on giving guided tours has started, as planned in 2020 but not undertaken until now for obvious reasons.

There have been several repairs and most of them are holding well but we still have the occasional problem with children picking flints out of the wall. A senior structural engineer from English Heritage paid a visit to the Castle and was alarmed at some of the new cracks that have appeared. He is preparing a report on his findings. Volunteers are monitoring the cracks and it may be necessary to fence off some of the walls for safety reasons. The first mowing of the bailey has been completed.

A strategy meeting will be held in May to discuss plans for the Castle to greater articulate our aims and the future and program of events in the Castle. We will also discuss further participation in the Chamber of Commerce's Medieval Festival on the August Bank Holiday.

Finally, newts are now waking up in the moat and the evidence, sadly, is the occasional squashed newt.

There are several social media sites that are being used for Castle information. The URLs are below.

twitter.com/BerkoCastle

facebook.com/BerkoCastle

instagram.com/BerkoCastle

youtube.com/BerkoCastle

<https://www.berkhamstedcastle.org.uk/>