

FOB NEWS

Friends of Berry Castle Newsletter Spring 2020



Welcome to our latest Spring edition.

With the wind howling outside and the horizontal rain lashing at the front of the house, it must be Spring!

Last year, we pushed for greater links with other groups. This has helped raise the profile of Berry Castle, as well as being able to offer a broader range of events and activities.

Something which has become more frequent, is the communications from our supporters. Whether it's a comment about the Newsletter, or the appreciation of the Berry Castle site; they are always welcome.

At our recent AGM, ideas for the coming year were discussed. All of which can be found in this edition.

AGM

We held our AGM at the Cranford Inn. Thank you to those who supported this. We used this as an opportunity to share our ideas and discuss how we wanted the group to move forward, this coming year. If you weren't able to make the meeting, we would still value any comments or ideas you have. Please let us know your thoughts, by contacting us at berrycastle1@outlook.com

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Simon Carroll re-elected Chairman and Secretary

John Eaton as Vice Chair.

Adrian White as Treasurer.

Ann White

Phil White

Michael Griffith Jones

Karen Smith

Chris Hassall

Audrey Alimo and Michael Barrow stepped down from the committee. We are grateful for their time and effort put into FOB, as they have been part of the committee, since the beginning. Linda Thomas also stepped down as Treasurer, as she has recently moved out of the area. Again, a big thank you for everything Linda's contributed to the group.

Site Maintenance

We'll be officially kicking off the working parties, on **Tuesday 10th March, 10am - 1pm.**

The focus will be on removing the persistent brambles and saplings, which are a continual battle. By pulling them out, it allows more access to all of the site. It's fairly easy work, for any age or fitness level and volunteers will be gratefully received. Just bring some gardening gloves and a flask and join our dedicated team in the fresh air.

Please let us know, if you intend to join us, so we have an idea of numbers and also, we can let you know if we have to cancel. Details will be on our 'events' page on our website. www.berrycastlehuntshaw.com

Quiz Night

If you feel like exercising the little grey cells, we're holding a quiz night, at Huntshaw Village Hall on **Saturday 4th April**, as a fund-raiser. We ask for £5 per person, where the funds raised will go towards the upkeep of Berry Castle, keeping it accessible for the community to enjoy. Teams, which need to be registered, can be up to a **maximum of 6 people** and there will be prizes for the winners. A selection of nibbles and refreshments will be available at half-time.

If you'd like to join us, please let us know, by email, so we can organise seating and vehicle parking.

To register your team, contact us at- berrycastle1@outlook.com where full details and parking arrangements will be sent out to you. We can only accommodate 10 teams, so it'll be on a first come, first served basis.

Devon Wildlife Trust

This year, we'll be working alongside Devon Wildlife Trust, to carry out wildlife surveys around the Berry Castle site, and Huntshaw Woods. Training days will be organised, beginning later this Spring. We hope to then encourage supporters, friends and families up to Berry Castle, to carry out the surveys, led in part, by those who completed the training. Dates will be sent out, once we have them.

St Petrock's Well Dig

After the success and interest of last year's dig, we are planning to investigate further. We hope to dig from **Friday 15th May – Sunday 17th May (inclusive)**. NDAS will be assisting on site, with their archaeologists, which means we can dig deeper. Judging by the number of volunteers, last year, people are keen to be involved, so please let me know if you're are interested in volunteering. Further details will follow in early April.

Berry Castle Tour

With the site now much clearer and having new supporters, we plan to give a walk and talk, around the Berry Castle site. With the vegetation lower, a greater understanding of the site is possible, adding to what we already know about the monument. Date TBC.

Historic England Site Survey Training

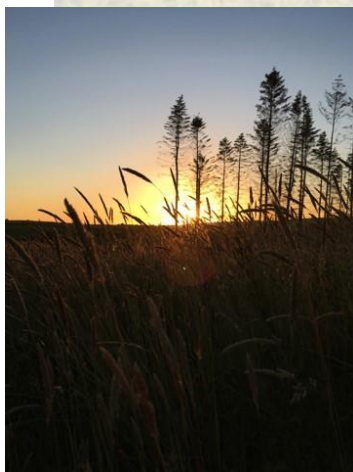
Last year, we organised training for site condition surveys, with Historic England. We'd like to do the same this year, for those who missed out, previously, as well as our newer supporters. We hope to run this at the end of March. Date and venue will follow. Keep an eye on our website's events page.

Other dates for your diary

Due to the exceptionally wet past few months, landowners can't confirm whether conditions under foot will be suitable. Proposed visits will be advertised, once we have more information.

Further dates will be added to our website, as the year progresses.

If you are interested in joining us for any of our walks and visits, please email us at berrycastle1@outlook.com for times and further details.



Articles and photographs

If you have any reviews of sites, visits or something which you think would be of interest to our supporters, please share it with us.

We'd also appreciate any photographs you may have taken, whilst at Berry Castle, which reflect the changing seasons, at the site. Please email them in.