



# Castle Fields NEWSLETTER

The latest from  
Berkhamsted Castle Trust  
keeping you up to date on progress to  
secure  
Castle Fields

Issue 3 January 2026

**Welcome to the January Castle Fields newsletter....**

The first of 2026. Hoping everyone enjoyed the festive period and are now settling into the New Year re-energised to continue our challenge to preserve this magnificent space\*.



**BERKHAMSTED  
CASTLE TRUST**



## Challenge continues for Castle Fields

With **20 months** remaining to pay back the loan of **£500,000** that enabled us to buy the fields, we're pleased to report that several donations came in over December and we've now reached **£71,016**.

**As ever, a huge thank you goes to everyone who has donated and helped us get this far.**

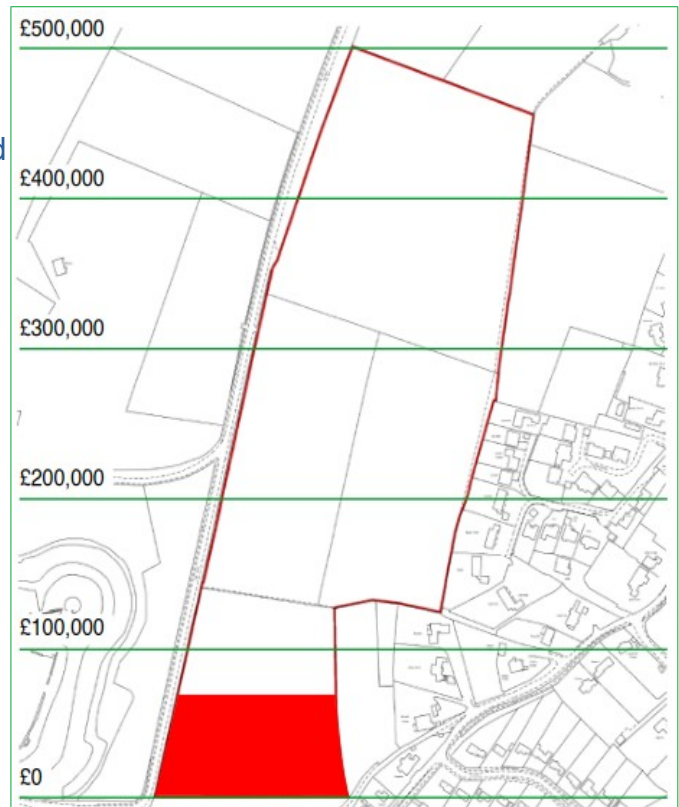
The thermometer is climbing but we've still a long way to go so .....

## Continuing awareness – whatever the weather

You may have noticed new posters appearing around the Castle and fields. These include the QR code linking to the donation website.

Thank you to Andrew & Fiona Peeler for publishing and distributing these.

If anyone knows of a suitable place where we can add a poster then please get in touch with James @ [james.moir@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk](mailto:james.moir@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk) and we can provide copies.



Also, look out for donation stations appearing soon near the fields and Castle. We'll be encouraging a small donation every time the fields are used.

## Castle Field Flyers are committing

### Berkorun Half Marathon and Fun Run Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

We now have an amazing and still growing team of 14 runners signed up for the half marathon and five-mile fun run in March.

Walking the course is also encouraged – a great way to experience our fabulous countryside around the outskirts of the town. See the route here: <https://www.berkorun.com/route-maps>

The entry fee helps Rotary raise funds for various local charities, in particular DENS, the Pepper Foundation and the Hospice of St Francis but any sponsorship you raise individually will go toward the Castle Fields fundraising.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in taking part please get in touch with Simon at [simon.lewis6@btconnect.com](mailto:simon.lewis6@btconnect.com).

Please give all the support you can to our runners here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/castlefieldsflyers>.

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## Flying video

If you see a drone flying over the fields in the coming weeks, it is probably being operated by Jeff Naylor, who has volunteered to make a video about the campaign.

Jeff's background as a TV Director inspired him to volunteer and put the media to good use to raise awareness of the need to save Castle Fields, their historical and community importance while also generating support for the campaign.

Jeff wants to highlight that while we're familiar with development proposals overriding local wishes, this campaign isn't simply about local residents objecting to changes near their homes. Instead, Castle Fields represent a site of significant historical importance and provides valuable green walking space near the town centre with excellent views. Generations have enjoyed unhindered access; the sudden enclosure of footpaths signalled that the area was at risk.



A canal boat enthusiast as well, Jeff will be interviewing and filming several contributors to illustrate their personal connection to the Fields.

See Jeff's website for more background <https://jeffnaylor.co.uk/>

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## Fundraising Info Pack

To encourage donations, we've developed a pack of information to answer any questions around how the funds raised are managed, plans to achieve the target and what will happen if we don't.

If you, your family or neighbours would like to support us, we will happily share these details. Please contact James at [james.moir@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk](mailto:james.moir@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk)

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## Artisan Market returns in March

We will continue to raise awareness about the campaign at the next Artisan Market on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**.

If you would be interested in helping on the stall in March please contact Simon at [simon.lewis6@btconnect.com](mailto:simon.lewis6@btconnect.com).

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## **S O S** ... Here's how YOU can get involved now

### **Any contribution is welcome:**

We're particularly looking for volunteers who can help with communications in particular email distribution, social media expertise or helpful hands to chat to visitors at our Market Stall and of course, financial donations of any size.

**Spread the word** – tell everyone you know that these green spaces need saving.

**Offer support** if you can, in any way.

To share your ideas please contact James at [james.moir@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk](mailto:james.moir@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk)

### **Share whatever you can spare**

To make a donation of any size please click here: <https://www.berkhamstedcastle.org.uk/> or use the QR code below and help us get closer to our target.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive future updates about BCT's Castle Fields fundraising activities and progress please send email addresses to Richard at [richard.north@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk](mailto:richard.north@berkhamstedcastle.org.uk)

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## Celebrating a significant event this year?

### Sponsoring Castle Fields makes an ideal gift.

Give a **Gift of Green** this year that will last way beyond the significant date. For your children, grandchildren, friends and relatives. Help ensure they can enjoy the fields when they visit.

Please click here:



### **Donate via the QR code**

Use this Code or go directly to [Donate to Save Castle Fields](#)

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## Future news

There are a lot of other activities underway including new flyers, videos and fundraising events which will be shared widely as soon as details are available. In the meantime please consider these key points about Castle Fields and why we're striving to Save the Fields:

- These beautiful fields are part of a unique landscape of great historical significance to Berkhamsted
- The fields will remain a bio-diverse open and undeveloped green space, beneficial to the future wellbeing of all Berkhamsted citizens and visitors
- Footpaths will remain accessible to the public at all times, combined with some light stewardship and potential grazing.
- The fields are a key part of a jigsaw in re-connecting the Castle, the town's greatest asset, with the local community.
- Owning the fields will give the Castle Trust the platform to further interpret the heritage experience the castle offers to its visitors

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**Wishing you and yours a very happy and healthy 2026 from all at Berkhamsted Castle Trust.**



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**\*Photo credit : Chris and Kat Nevin**

*You have received this newsletter as you have shown interest in the Castle Fields.*

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