As of 13th November 2020, Github has deprecated basic authentication via username and password. Attempting to access the Github API using this method will give a 401 error.
Now, a Personal Access Token (PAT) has to be created and used in lieu of the password. Everything else will remain the same.

Here are the details regarding the deprecation: https://developer.github.com/changes/2020-02-14-deprecating-password-auth/

Steps to generate a PAT are given here:
https://docs.github.com/en/free-pro-team@latest/github/authenticating-to-github/creating-a-personal-access-token