



BMTA website: <https://blandfordmortaintwinning.org.uk/>

Email: secretary@blandfordmortaintwinning.org.uk

Facebook: Blandford Mortain Twinning Association

Spring 2026 Newsletter Blandford Mortain Twinning Association.

The BMTA is back! This year we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Twinning with Mortain.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 15th May 1pm:

Formal greeting for the French visitors followed by a tour of the Corn Exchange, and a procession to the Mortain Bridge for a 40th Anniversary ceremony with the Mayors of Blandford and Mortain, and other visitors.

Please join us to meet the visitors from Mortain and afterwards at the Blandford Museum for refreshments, and a museum visit. See below for further details.

Saturday 16th May:

Visit to the brewery in the morning, members are welcome to join us, but there will be an admission charge.

Saturday 18th July:

The popular Bastille Day walk returns, walking along the Trailway to the White Horse. See below for further details.

Future dates:

We have ideas in the pipeline for members' evenings, such as a wine tasting.

Update on the BMTA:

A small group have kept the flame alive since the aftermath of Covid, and a small Exchange occurred in May 2025, with a few Mortainais visiting Blandford for the Mayor Making, and a group of intrepid BMTA cyclists visited Mortain, receiving a very warm welcome.

There are plans to set up a pen-pal exchange from The Blandford school 6th Form with similar aged students in Mortain.

If you represent a group and would like to make contact with similar groups in the Mortain area, please contact the secretary and we'll explore possible links.

All members can have a 10% discount on Brittany Ferry fares if the trip is twinning related.

Last December, we held our first AGM since 2019 and the following were elected to the Committee until the next AGM in late Autumn 2026:

Chairman Roger Carter

Vice Chair Hugo Mieville

Treasurer Alan Cross

Secretary Keith & Elaine Bradley

Twinning Officer Alan Cross

Committee members: Patricia Hedley, Charles Ellis, Steve Hitchings (BFTC Council member is Alan Cross)

Since then, we have met regularly to discuss various events, set up a new website and email address (see above).

Mayor Making visit

The first event is a visit by the new Mayor of Mortain and entourage to celebrate both Blandford's Mayor Making (15th May) and our 40th Anniversary.

After the Mayor Making, we would love members to join us, either starting at the Corn Exchange, or, later by the Mortain Bridge. The programme is as follows:

- (a) A formal greeting of the French after the Mayor Making, please arrive 1pm – 1.15pm
- (b) A tour of the Corn Exchange Complex, including the history of the whole complex – in English and French, this will be approximately 30 minutes
- (c) A procession to the Mortain (blue) bridge by the Mayors, dignitaries and members at around 2.15pm where there will be a short commemoration ceremony
- (d) From there, we will walk to the Blandford Museum for refreshments and a visit to the Museum

Upcoming events for your diaries:

18th July 2026

We are resurrecting the popular Bastille Day walk to the White horse at Stourpaine. We've chosen the following Saturday for the walk from Blandford Station car park, or points in between, to Stourpaine where a French style ploughman's will be served.

We hope as many members and their families will attend as possible. We are currently getting prices and working out exact timings, return transport etc.

The meal, a 'French ploughmans', will need to be pre-paid, and we'll get the details of costings to you as soon as we can.

Transport for those who cannot walk one or both ways will be organised for those who wish to use it.

Please could you could let us know through our secretary (a) the numbers walking, (b) who would like the French ploughman's lunch and, (c) who requires transport

We also have ideas in the pipeline for later in the year for a members evening, such as wine tasting (we have a resident expert!), plus other events.

We hope for a successful 40th Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Carter', written in a cursive style.

Chairman