

## Memorial Design of the Year Awards 2026



BRAMM will soon be accepting entries for the FREE to ENTER BRAMM Memorial Design of the Year Awards

We are again offering **£1000** prize money for the Gold Award Winner along with a press release for you to promote your achievement and your commitment to memorial design and creativity.

Runners up will receive a Silver Award and a press release to promote their achievement.

### The Rules:

- The memorial must be on a single grave space.
- The memorial may be a lawn memorial, with or without kerbs, or it can be a cremation memorial.
- The memorial must have been installed in a cemetery within the last 5 years
- We cannot accept entries for memorials still at the design stage or still in the workshop.
- Memorial designs submitted in previous years will not be accepted.
- OGEEs with ornaments will not be considered. Ornaments will not be judged.
- Maximum of 3 entries per company, and a maximum of 3 photos per entry.
- **Entries must be received between March 31<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2026**
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

**The winning design will demonstrate exceptional attention to detail, creativity, innovation, and visual impact.**

It will be shared with industry journals and may be published for marketing purposes.

To enter, simply email photographs of the memorials you wish to submit, stating the cemetery where they have been fixed and confirming you have obtained permission from the family.

# BRAMM launch a New Abridged BLUE BOOK

BRAMM will soon be launching a New Abridged BRAMM BLUE BOOK. The new version will be emailed to all Registered BRAMM Companies once the final checks have been carried out.

It will be an online document, but it can be printed or put on your mobile phone.

The idea was to only include in the Abridged version information that relates to the fixing of most memorials. More 3D drawings and a simpler format are used to assist memorial masons.



The Abridged Blue Book does not cover Health and Safety and other best practice advice. This information is still available in the existing version of the BRAMM BLUE BOOK. Eventually even this information will be reviewed and put into an updated and easier to understand version.

BRAMM welcomes your feedback once you receive a copy



Please visit our new website and have a look around.

The large menu buttons make the site easy to navigate, and the full width video banner keeps every page interesting.



Checking your company details are up to date has never been easier for you or the burial authorities.

This link will take you straight there: [Home - BRAMM](#)

# BRAMM formally administers the Cemetery of the Year Awards



BRAMM has formally taken over the administration of the Cemetery of the Year Awards from MAB (Memorial Awareness Board). BRAMM sponsored the CYA last year and will administer the CYA in 2026.

BRAMM sees the CYA as a great opportunity to converse with burial authorities throughout Britain.

BRAMM has a new database with every principal burial authority.

It will, over time, be working at adding the smaller parish councils and active churchyards.

The Cemetery of the Year Awards will be used to help cemeteries improve standards for the bereaved and memorial masons.

**BRAMM is Improving Standards for everyone.**

## Fixer Licence Cards

BRAMM believes the majority of Burial Authorities have not been asking to see fixer licence cards to check fixer identity or credentials, so BRAMM will no longer be issuing physical licence cards as standard practice.

Fixers must still complete our FREE online CPD once every 3 years for their licence to remain valid, and a PDF of the licence and fixer certificate will still be emailed to the employer.

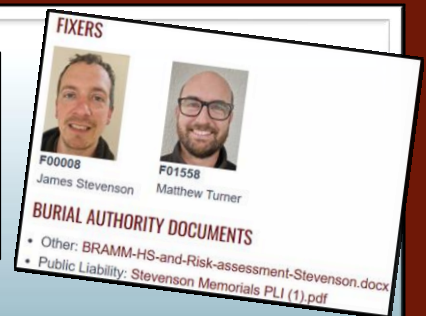
A physical card licence can still be requested but will incur a nominal fee.

Companies and Burial Authorities can check fixers linked to each company by visiting the BRAMM Website and using the Search for a BRAMM Registered Mason function.

Fixers linked with a company can be seen by clicking on the Burial Authority Information button. Burial Authorities will also be guided to use the website to check fixer details are current, at the time the memorial is being erected.

Email: [info@stevensonmemorials.co.uk](mailto:info@stevensonmemorials.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01253 304604  
Website: [www.stevensonmemorials.co.uk](http://www.stevensonmemorials.co.uk)

**BURIAL AUTHORITY INFORMATION**





## The BRAMM Fixer Licence Assessment - Update

The BRAMM Fixer Licence Assessment has been clearly stated to be for “experienced fixers”, but some memorial managers are putting candidates forward too soon and they are failing.

BRAMM wants every candidate to pass and has made new videos to explain exactly what happens on an assessment, but each company should make sure their candidate has experience of digging, preparing and laying a foundation slab, mixing and applying cement, and drilling a Ground Anchor size hole in the foundation, in exactly the right spot instructed by the

assessor. Candidates that do this every day are passing; candidates that have merely attended while a few memorials have been fixed will fail.

BRAMM sends literature emphasizing that, before any candidate attends, they should have practiced the range of skills required to be demonstrated during the assessment, as evidence of the skills will be saved in each candidate's portfolio.



What is wrong here?



### Fixing Standards Review

It is normal practice for anyone who has worked in the same industry for many years, to lose track of updates made to industry standards. This is the same for memorial masons. The BRAMM Blue Book is a handy reference manual but once you find a way to fix memorials that you are happy with, why would you ever need to read it again?

The industry standards BS8415 were updated in 2018 to address issues on foundations with ground anchors and other minor updates.

The BRAMM Blue Book was also updated in line with these changes.



**It has become apparent that there are some masons on the BRAMM Register who are not aware of these changes.**



Therefore, to maintain the integrity of the BRAMM Register and to keep the fixer licences valid, BRAMM will be carrying out a Fixing Standards Review of all masons on the BRAMM Register.

This will take the format of a video call between a BRAMM Assessor and the fixer, while a lawn memorial is installed using the fixers usual method. If BRAMM has concerns that the method did not comply with BS8415, then it will be necessary for the fixer mason to have an enhanced assessment to demonstrate in person, their understanding of various fixing methods.

Masons who have been on the register for the longest time will be contacted first.

# Company Compliance and Best Practice

BRAMM Company Compliance and Best Practice is designed to support Memorial Masons with improving relationships with both customers and burial authorities, and hopes to reduce the number of complaints being made.

The activity will be **mandatory** for all companies on the BRAMM Register and will record evidence of **your most recent invoices for ground anchors, dowels and foundations**, to prove compliance with BS8415.

**This will help BRAMM support you in the event of a claim.**

You will be asked to watch a short 5 minute video then complete our short questionnaire. There are no wrong answers, so be honest with yourself and with BRAMM.

By working together, we can make the industry run more smoothly for the **benefit of the bereaved, the burial authorities and the masons**. The BRAMM Company Compliance will start in the next few months, and each company will only be asked for information once every three years, just like the on-line Fixer CPD.



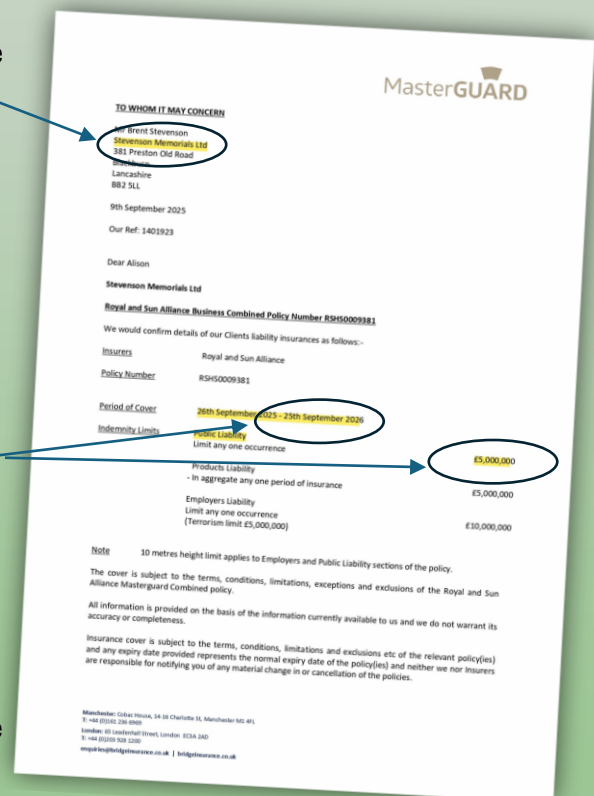
## Public Liability Insurance

All Burial Authorities require evidence that all masons who work in their cemeteries have a minimum £5m Indemnity Public Liability Insurance in place. This is, therefore, a requirement of being on the BRAMM Register.

The insurance document must show the name of the company insured, as it is shown on the BRAMM Register. If you have several branches covered by one policy, this must be made clear in the 'Name of the Insured' section. If your company trading name is not the same as the registered company name, then this again needs to be made clear on the document. E.g: Fred Bloggs T/A Bloggs Memorials

The insurance document must also show the value of indemnity (£5m minimum) and the policy expiry date. If BRAMM receive a document that omits any of these things, is not on headed paper or is an insurance reminder notice, then we will contact you to request the relevant information.

Please do not be offended. This is simply the criteria that needs to be met and may save you considerable inconvenience at a later date in the unfortunate event of something going wrong.



## Monumental Additions has ceased trading.

Due to the sudden closure of Kosmolux in Italy, Monumental Additions has ceased trading after more than 40 years in the industry.

The owner is now working closely with his son in developing their sustainable memorials division, EcoRest, as a separate entity.



Oldlings of Hull are able to offer the Jorda range of products, which mirror closely the Kosmolux Reconstituted Bronze and Marble products.



Are you passionate about the industry?

Do you care about improving standards?

### Memorial Mason Representative needed to join the BRAMM Board

The BRAMM Board is made up of 4 Burial Authority representatives from ICCM FBCA SLCC & CWGC, chosen by their organization, and 4 Memorial Mason representatives who need to apply for the post and are then elected by the rest of the Board at the BRAMM AGM which takes place each year in June.

Applications are invited for a Memorial Mason Representative to stand on the BRAMM Board of Directors for a term of 4 years.

The role is voluntary (un-paid) and requires attendance at 2 Board meetings each year, one in person in June and the other is held remotely.

If you are a BRAMM Registered Memorial Mason who is committed to maintaining BRAMM standards, and would like to be considered as a Memorial Mason Representative on the BRAMM Board of Directors, please email your CV to Jen at [bramm@bramm-uk.org](mailto:bramm@bramm-uk.org) along with a statement explaining why you would like this opportunity, and how you could support BRAMM with making improvements within the industry.

**JOIN OUR TEAM**



## **Planning for the unthinkable: Lasting Powers of Attorney for Business Affairs**

BRAMM head office was recently made aware of a sole trader running a long-standing Memorial Mason business who had been **struck down** with a serious illness, leaving the business owner unable to run their business.

The Business has a **loyal staff** who were trying to keep the business running to allow existing customer orders to be fulfilled and invoices paid, as well as wages.

The business owner was **incapacitated** in hospital and unable to give any instructions or sign any paperwork.

In these **sad circumstances** there was little the staff could do in the short term to keep the business ticking over. In particular, no-one was authorised to access the business bank account. Understandably, staff had little choice but to start looking for new jobs, and suppliers could not be paid even though the business had funds in the bank. These circumstances will also have a very significant impact on family finances if they are reliant on income from the business.

A Lasting Power of Attorney for property and financial affairs (LPA) is a legal document that allows someone to appoint one or more trusted individuals of their choice to manage their affairs if they become unable to do so. Family members do not automatically have the right to make decisions about the business, or access bank accounts. An LPA can be made for business affairs and a separate one for personal assets. Specific instructions about the business can be included in the LPA.

The alternative? If there is no LPA in place and the business owner is unable to make decisions for themselves, the alternative is an application to the **Court of Protections** to appoint a Deputy of the Court's choosing – this process will take many months and will incur considerable **court costs and legal fees**.

LPAs can have a key role to play for partnerships too, as the Partnership Agreement may not make appropriate provision in the event of a Partner's incapacity.

More information about Business LPAs is here:

[Make, register or end a lasting power of attorney: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

You may want to consult a solicitor to see if an LPA would be a good idea for your business.

LPAs can be drafted and registered by individuals.

Registration of the LPA with the Office of the Public Guardian currently costs £92.

**FOR SALE: Wall mounted core drill with a transformer box.**

Never been used so in excellent working condition



Please contact on 07460095961 or 01924466771  
for more information or viewing (Dewsbury)

## Previous Memorial Design Award Winners

2022: Scott Taylor



2024: Walsh Memorials

# A new memorial for a victim of the Yorkshire Ripper

Nearly 45 years have passed since the Yorkshire Ripper was finally arrested, but his terrible crimes still resonate in the North of England.

Richard Walkden, a headteacher from Huddersfield was aware that the Ripper's eighth victim, Elena (Helen) Rytka was murdered in his hometown. Richard saw an online article about Elena, which included a picture of her Grave in Scholemoor Cemetery, Bradford – marked only with a wooden cross, her name incorrectly spelt.

He decided that action needed to be taken to put in place a proper memorial, some 47 years after her murder.



Richard contacted BRAMM and was given details of local Memorial Masons registered with BRAMM, and also advised to ensure he had proper permission to erect a memorial. Richard is delighted with the headstone, which was supplied and fixed by In Loving Memory of Bradford. They also helped with the design, which Richard wanted to keep very simple, and kindly discounted their fee given the circumstances.



Richard commented "The state of the memorial was disgraceful, and talking to the children at school about the history of their town, I mentioned the state of Elena's grave. They urged me to do something about it, and I decided to do just that. I am really pleased with the new memorial."

## BRAMM is thanked for advice (edited)

*Dear BRAMM Administrator*

*Thank you for assisting me to get a positive result.*

*I contacted BRAMM regarding a Headstone which was erected in January 2019. When we visited in 2023, we noticed the headstone had subsided badly and in addition the lettering was fading. I contacted the memorial mason and they initially dismissed my concerns saying these things happen and a few weeks later they contacted me giving a price of £1000 + to correct the positioning etc.*

*As I had been advised to contact BRAMM I did so and followed the advice given. I contacted the mason again by email and mentioned the Sale of Goods Act and reminded them of their responsibilities. Eventually the work was undertaken free of charge and the ground evened out. The base area of the headstone was discoloured because it had sunk beneath the ground. We did not pursue on that issue and were pleased that the work was completed without an additional cost to us.*

*I probably spoke with a number of people at BRAMM. I initially left a message and a gentleman returned my call - and he was extremely helpful and asked me to send pictures of the Headstone and then advised me what to do.*

*I am very grateful for the help I received and thank you for your support and consideration. It meant a lot to talk things through with a professional.*



## Regional Centre Assessment Dates 2026

Dates have been booked for Regional Centre assessment days to run on the following dates. Locations will be confirmed closer to the time.



### Measurements:

The hole in the base for the ground anchor must not exceed the size stated in you Ground Anchor manufacturer's guidelines. **Check the guidelines and your hole sizes!!!**

- March 18<sup>th</sup> Blackburn
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> Hereford
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Slough
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Leeds
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesbrough
- June 17<sup>th</sup> Wolverhampton
- July 8<sup>th</sup> Cambridge
- August 14<sup>th</sup> Stirling
- September 9<sup>th</sup> Southampton
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> Nottingham
- October 7<sup>th</sup> Chester

Regional Centre Assessments cost just £395 per fixer.  
Spaces are limited so register your interest TODAY.

## BRAMM Quality Standards – respect for other memorials.

BRAMM's primary concern is with the fixing of safe memorials, but the public and Burial Authorities contact us regarding other issues too, such as messy sites and grubby memorials. If you find yourself having to work in a tight space for whatever reason, where existing memorials are already standing, some overspill of soil and debris may be unavoidable but please be respectful to the owners and leave the memorials clean and the site tidy. BRAMM do not enforce high standards as a condition of being on the BRAMM Register, but there is an expectation from the public that the mason's work will be of higher quality, when the mason holds a BRAMM Fixers Licence.



**StoneGuard**  
Memorial Insurance

The UK's favourite memorial insurance specialist is proud to sponsor the BRAMM newsletter

[bridgeinsurance.co.uk/stoneguard](https://bridgeinsurance.co.uk/stoneguard)



Bridge Insurance Brokers Limited, Cobac House, 14-16 Charlotte Street, Manchester M1 4FL. Registered in England No. 996284. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

BRAMM has taken every care in the preparation of the material contained in this document to ensure it is correct and accurate at the time of production. However, this material may contain typographical errors or technical inaccuracies.

BRAMM expressly excludes to the fullest extent permitted by law all liability howsoever arising from any such errors or inaccuracies. © BRAMM 2026