

BRAMM is now accepting entries for the FREE to ENTER

## Memorial Design of the Year Awards 2026

We are 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.

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



These are just a few of the competition entries received so far .....

**Can you do better?**



Click here for more details and competition rules:  
[Memorial Design Awards Information - BRAMM](#)

# HOW DO YOU FIX??

Fixer masons across the country each have their own preferred method of fixing memorials that meet the **British Standards 8415:2018**. There are also regional differences and each cemetery has their own preference on how memorials are fixed too.

BS 8415:2018



But what **unites us all**, is the desire to see memorials in our burial grounds that are both **beautiful and safe**, and require minimal maintenance by the cemetery, the mason or the grave owner.

All the various fixing methods have their advantages and disadvantages but it has come to light, with the increase in cemeteries carrying out safety inspections, that memorials fixed to the foundation with **wet cement only**, have a limited number of years before **the joint will fail**.



This causes a **headache for the cemetery** who need to 'make safe' the memorial, it **causes a headache for the bereaved** who need to arrange the reinstatement of the memorial, and it causes a **headache for the mason** who will need to make time to go back to the cemetery and refix the memorial, possibly **FREE OF CHARGE!**

When fixing memorials using **wet cement**, then the **integrity and durability** of the joint is greatly improved by using a **well-mixed cement paste**, **applying full coverage between the base and foundation** and then **pointing the memorial thoroughly** to prevent water ingress.



If you know the memorial will never need to be removed at a later date for additional work, **then dowels should also be used between the base and the foundation**, again increasing the strength and integrity of the joint.

Another way to fix a memorial to the foundation, is to use a

## LOCKDOWN SYSTEM



The huge **advantage** of this is that the **memorial is mechanically secured to the foundation** but easy to remove at a later date for additional work.

The lockdown system requires the base and foundation to have a flower container, which provides the space for the mechanism which holds the components together.

This method is **quick to install in the cemetery** and is not reliant on our fickle British weather 'having a good day'.



So choose your method, execute it well and save a whole load of headaches!

### Sale of Goods Act 1979



Memorials are exposed to the erratic British weather so the **materials used should be fit for purpose**

and be able to stand the test of time.

In terms of the Sale of Goods Act, this is for a **minimum term of 6 years**.



Use appropriate paint for lettering



Will the gilding last many years or peel off in just 2 or 3 years?

Mix cement correctly and apply full coverage:



Point joints thoroughly to prevent water ingress.



If you anticipate the material or any other element of the memorial, chosen by the bereaved, may not withstand the elements for at least 6 years, then can you guarantee it is fit for purpose?

There is an expectation from the bereaved that a memorial will last for many years without the need for touch ups or repairs, and they have a right to at least 6 years without issue





## The BRAMM Fixer Licence Assessment: Not what it used to be!

In 2025, the assessment criteria and evidence portfolio for the BRAMM Fixer Licence Assessment was updated in line with requirements set by **OFQUAL** and **AIM Qualifications and Assessments Group**.

BRAMM is fully transparent about the assessment process and all the information about our assessments can be found on our website: [Information - BRAMM](#)

The information is clear about what candidates need to bring to the practical assessment, what skills will be tested, the evidence pictures that will be collected and illustrates the scoring system.

There are even guidance videos to demonstrate what we are looking for.

What we don't do for you, is **PRACTISE!**

**PRACTISE** digging the foundation hole, **PRACTISE** levelling the foundation, **PRACTISE** drilling an accurate ground anchor hole, **PRACTISE** mixing cement paste, carry out a timed fix and

**PRACTISE! PRACTISE! PRACTISE!**

**Only competent fixer masons PASS the assessment!**



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 organisation, 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**





## FOR SALE: MEMORIAL MASON BUSINESS

**Bambridge Brothers of Darlington, County Durham, Established 1909.**



Bambridge Brothers of Darlington County Durham is an extremely reputable company in their local and surrounding area, and they are selling the whole package:

**large yard space with front on Main Street with passing traffic, good rear access, modern workshop, toilet facilities, showroom and office.**

- The workshop comes with tools, compressor and CNC machine, plotter and computers.
- The yard with buildings could be rented and we are awaiting a value on this.
- The business sale includes a 2019 transit van (from new) with approx 25k miles
- Workshop facilities include ABRA CNC machine with compressor.
- Office includes three computers along with lettering software and plotter, approx value £30k
- Stock value approx £15-20k
- Work ahead is in excess of 9 months with a large order book and around 40 plus additional inscription memorials in yard.



**POA - An up to date valuation will be obtained.**

**Please contact 07941 704007 to view or for more information**

### Why it is important to thoroughly **point the joints**

Pointed joints are not just to make the memorial look well finished. Thoroughly pointing memorial joints is essential to create a continuous, weather-resistant barrier that seals gaps, preventing moisture and water ingress that can cause damage when freezing, by expanding and breaking the joints.

## Regional Centre Assessment Dates 2026

Regional Centre assessment will run on the following dates.

Locations will be confirmed closer to the time.



### Foundation alignment:

Run a string line behind the two mock bases and lay the foundation centrally between the two. The string line should be 3" from the back of the foundation.

- 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 - Who can do your fixing?

It is a requirement of being on the BRAMM register, that all companies must have a minimum of one BRAMM Licenced Fixer to at least supervise and be responsible for all that company's memorial fixes.

The fixer mason may be sub-contracted from elsewhere, but BRAMM needs to add that fixer to the company file and we must receive confirmation of the arrangement from the other company.

That fixer will be covered by **your insurance** while carrying out **your work**.

If you sub-contract your fixer to another company, and that company is removed from the register for failing to fix a memorial to current BS8415 guidelines, then this will impact your company also as the fixer will be temporarily removed from the register while investigations are carried out.



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



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