BRAMM NEWS

IMPROVING STANDARDS

AUTUMN 2026

BRITISH REGISTER OF ACCREDITED MEMORIAL MASONS

An independent, not-for-profit register taking a balanced approach to memorialisation

The arch below says what BRAMM is about. Burial authorities, the mason and the bereaved each form part of it. None takes priority, and none stands without the others. BRAMM is an **independent register**, run by a board drawn equally from burial authorities and professional memorial masons.

Our aim is simple: to **raise standards** across the whole sector for everyone who works in and everyone who relies on it.

Just some of the benefits BRAMM brings:

BURIAL AUTHORITIES

- **FREE** to every authority
- **One place to look:** no competency scheme of your own to run
- **Independent, quality-audited assessment** with no officer time
- **£5m Public Liability Insurance** verified in registered name
- **H&S Risk Assessments** held on file
- **One Common Standard**
- **Safer memorials** in your burial grounds

THE MASON

- **One credential** recognised by authorities UK wide
- **Access to work** in cemeteries that require BRAMM
- **Free technical guidance:** The Blue Book and Best Practice notices
- **A level playing field:** every competitor must meet the same standards
- An **independently assessed Fixer** qualified to BS 8415
- **Safer memorials** to enhance your reputation

THE BEREAVED

- The memorial fixed by someone **independently assessed** to a British Standard
- A memorial fixed to **stand safely** for decades to come
- The mason's **insurance and other accreditations** independently checked for you
- **Honest Pricing:** memorial price, VAT and cemetery fees shown clearly
- **Safer memorials** for your family, and for everyone else's

BRAMM RECOMMENDS

Lockdown systems: fixed to the foundation

A lockdown system fixes an assembled memorial to its foundation mechanically, with a bolt tightened to a set torque, rather than relying on a bed of cement. BRAMM Best Practice is clear: cement alone should never be used to fix the base to the foundation. A lockdown system, with a ground anchor, is the way to give the memorial structural integrity as well as safety.

A receiving plate set in the base: the memorial bolts down onto the foundation.

The bolt is tightened to the torque value the manufacturer specifies.

How it works

A receiving plate is cast or fixed into the foundation, or an expansion bolt is set into it. The memorial base is drilled to match, lowered into place and bolted down. The bolt is tightened with a torque wrench to the value the manufacturer specifies, and from that moment the memorial is secure.

Where it fits with the ground anchor

The ground anchor is the safety device: it is always required for a lawn memorial on an independent foundation, and it stops the headstone falling if the fixing is ever disturbed. It does not bond the base to the foundation. The lockdown does that job, as an additional element, so a memorial fixed with both has its safety and its structural integrity covered.

WITH A LOCKDOWN SYSTEM	WITH CEMENT ALONE
✓ **Can be installed in all weather conditions**	× Cannot be used below 5 °C or in torrential rain
✓ **Structurally secure the instant the bolt is tightened**	× Needs many days to cure before full strength is reached
✓ **Does not deteriorate over time**	× Susceptible to British weather; erodes away over the years
✓ **Memorial easily removed for a second inscription, with minimal risk of damage**	× Cement joints are difficult to break and risk damaging the memorial
✓ **Does not rely on cement strength for structural integrity**	× A poor cement mix gives a weak bond, and nobody can see it
✓ **Options available for raft and pre-cast foundations**	× Dependent on the quality of the bed laid on the day

Remember

- ✓ **A ground anchor is always required on an independent foundation, even with a lockdown.** On a continuous concrete raft/beam foundation a correctly fitted lock down only is sufficient.
- ✓ **Cement alone is not Best Practice** for fixing the base to the foundation. Use a lockdown system or, where the memorial will not be removed for a second inscription, dowel the base to the foundation as the headstone is dowelled to the base.
- ✓ **Torque to the manufacturer's value**, every time, with a calibrated wrench. Under-tightened is not secure; over-tightened can crack the stone.
- ✓ **Photograph the fixing** before the memorial is lowered and after the bolt is tightened. It is your record that the job was done to the standard.

Fixed mechanically, anchored for safety and secure the day it is set – BRAMM Best Practice In Action

Images courtesy of The Blast Shop and Stevensons Memorials

Based on BRAMM Best Practice and Quality Standards (June 2026). Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and BS 8415.

Sharing their success...

Belle Lapidi and Walsh Memorials proudly showing off their achievements in the
BRAMM Memorial Design of the Year Awards 2026

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BRAMM does not endorse any item offered for sale and buyers should satisfy themselves as to the condition.

International Reputation

BRAMM was contacted in October by
The British Cemetery
in Lisbon, Portugal, to seek our advice as an organisation with
'known expertise'.
It was a pleasure to be able to help our European counterparts

Share your good news.

Got a success story the memorial community would enjoy? Send us a few words and some photos and we will do our best to feature it in the next issue of BRAMM News

DOING IT RIGHT

The law is on your side – when the memorial is fixed properly

Legislation usually reads as a list of ways to get into trouble. Read the other way round, it is the strongest argument a registered mason has. Three laws hold masons responsible for what they fix. Meet them, keep the evidence, and the same laws become your protection, your selling point and your answer to any question a burial authority or family can ask.

Consumer Protection Act 1987

STRICT LIABILITY FOR DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

If a memorial or its fixing is defective and causes injury or damage, the mason is liable without the customer having to prove negligence, for up to ten years from supply.

> **The good news:** the bar is the same for everyone, and it is exactly what separates a registered mason from anyone with a van. A memorial fixed to BS 8415 and photographed at each stage is a defence that answers a claim before it starts. The Act does not punish the mason who does it right; it protects him from the one who does not.

General Product Safety Regulations 2005

EVERY PRODUCT MUST BE SAFE IN NORMAL USE

Anything supplied to a consumer must be safe in normal and reasonably foreseeable use, judged against recognised standards. Trading Standards enforce it.

> **The good news:** the standard is already written down, in BS 8415 and the Blue Book, and BRAMM has already trained and tested you against it. Follow the method you were assessed on and there is nothing for an enforcement officer to find.

Consumer Rights Act 2015

SATISFACTORY QUALITY, REASONABLE CARE AND SKILL

A memorial is sold as goods and fixed as a service. The goods must be of satisfactory quality and the fixing done with reasonable care and skill, with a six-year claim window in England and Wales (five in Scotland).

> **The good news:** six years is a promise a BRAMM mason can make with confidence, because a memorial set to the standard will outlast it many times over. The signed drawing, written timescale and clear price the Quality Standards ask for protect you as much as the family, because they fix what was agreed in writing.

For the mason: doing it right pays

- **A ready-made defence.** Fix to the standard, keep the photographs, and you answer any claim with evidence rather than argument.
- **Insurance you can rely on.** Insurers back the mason who follows the recognised method; your £5m cover is the stronger for it.
- **Fewer call-backs.** A memorial dowelled, fixed correctly with a Ground Anchor, a locked down on the correct foundation does not need re-setting in two winters' time.
- **Work you could not otherwise do.** Authorities that require BRAMM are choosing the mason who meets the law, not avoids it.

For the burial authority: clear duties

- **Due diligence done for you.** Requiring a BRAMM mason is a defensible way of discharging part of your duty to provide a safe environment.
- **Responsibility sits where the law puts it.** The mason answers for the fixing; the authority for inspection. A common standard keeps the line clear.
- **Fewer disputes at the counter.** Signed drawings, permits and written timescales mean the family, the mason and the office all hold the same piece of paper.
- **Safer grounds, fewer headlines.** Memorials fixed to BS 8415 are the memorials that stay standing between inspections.

Compliance is not the price of being on the Register.
It is the return on it: a safer memorial, a protected business and a burial ground everyone can trust.

Sources: Consumer Protection Act 1987; General Product Safety Regulations 2005; Consumer Rights Act 2015; BS 8415; BRAMM Blue Book and Quality Standards (2026). General guidance, not legal advice.

BRAMM Training : Modern Popular Methods of Fixing a Lawn Memorial

This day course is designed for masons who may be new to the industry and would like a general insight into the popular fixing methods used today, or masons who have only used one fixing method and would like to know about other popular fixing methods.

Masons who are interested in taking the BRAMM Fixer Licence Assessment are also welcome, but the training day is does not focus solely on the skills required to pass the assessment and is not a substitute for actual experience.

The training day includes a classroom session followed by practical demonstrations in the cemetery with some 'hands-on' opportunities.

Places are limited to 6 per day and cost £95 per attendee.

The Training Day will be running on **Friday 20th November** and **Tuesday 1st December**

To book your place, please email bramm@bramm-uk.org

More dates will be made available in the new year.

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BRIDGE

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